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The Long Island FISHERMAN

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July 2nd, 1981 ★ Volume 16, Number 26 ★ 16th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-CENTS

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THIS WEEK'S WINNING NUMBER IS:

87-SBQ

LAST WEEK'S WINNER IS:

No call was received by the Friday deadline, therefore, we have no winner this week.

MONTAUK	CAPTREE	FREEPORT	SHEEPSHEAD	NO. SHORE	SO. SHORE
JIGGER III	Capt. LEITCH	CAPT. AL	FLAMINGO III	NORTH STAR	CHINCO
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	Capt. SCOTTY	STARSTREAM II			COMMODORE
	Capt.	Capt. LOU FLEET			
	BEN LITWIN				
	CAPT. ROD				

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 16, Number 26 **July 2nd, 1981**

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About the Cover—

Long Island offshore anglers are currently enjoying a fine run of mako sharks. For some tips on doing battle with these high-flying game fish, see the article on page 26. Pete Barrett photo.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **AREA PROFILE: ROCKAWAY INLET SURF**

Richard Reina PUBLISHER
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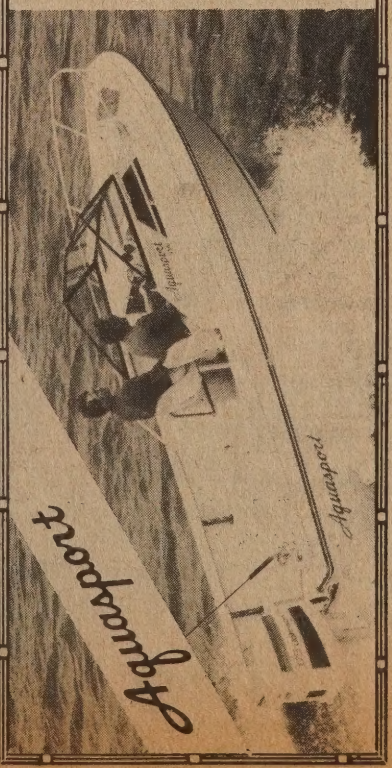

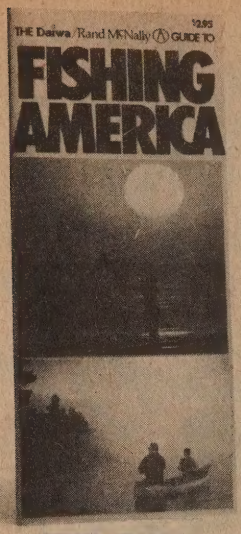

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Pass It On...

ZEBCO "SEA VENTURE"

A unique day of saltwater fishing has been set for July 10th aboard the Captree open boat, Speedy VI. The Zebco "Sea Venture" will be limited to 50 fishermen who will spend the day fishing and field testing the new Zebco #6050 saltwater reel with Maxima line, as well as the new saltwater baits produced by Bomber and Mr. Twister.

The main idea of the trip is to get out and have a good time fishing and try out new techniques and products. Each person signing up at Merrick Tackle for the Zebco "Sea Venture," for $45, will receive over $92 in retail value, including the tackle, the trip and beer and soda which will be on the boat. You must sign up by July 9. Limited to first 50 anglers signing up at Merrick Tackle in Bellmore.

FREEPORT FISHING FESTIVAL SLATED FOR AUG. 1st

The Freeport Tuna Club will hold its Seventh Annual Freeport Fishing Festival Tournament on August 1, 1981.

There will be free docking facilities at Guy Lombardo Marina for two nights. Free bait will include two cans of chum, mackerel and bunker.

There will be a free gala party and dinner that evening, 8/1/81. There will be free raffles for valuable prizes and free tournament patches and date bars.

There will be tournament prizes of Penn International 6/0 reels and custom built rods for each category of shark, bluefish, tuna, billfish.

The proceeds from the sale of the fish will be contributed to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute for Research.

The entire cost will be $160 for the captain and four anglers.

For applications and further information contact: Freeport Fishing Festival, Inc., P.O. Box 5, Freeport, New York 11520; or Bart Yenna, 516-374-2895; Max Harowitz, 212-525-4455; Bob Lederer, 516-525-0525.

SHELTER ISLAND RALLY A SUCCESS

The Salty Flyrodders of N.Y., Inc., Annual Shelter Island Rally was held the weekend of June 13, 1981; 106 people attended the weekend outing and caught weaks, blues and bass. Total caught on flyrod was 21. Most all were taken during night and early morning hours. In spite of a lack of the usual large schools of baitfish, most were caught on white flies.

Top member award went to Ken Vanderlaske (4.5 lb. weak). Top non-member trophy went to Paul Sharkey (7.10 lb. weak).

"Chico" Fernandez, guest lecturer, tyer, flycaster, guide and writer produced a fantastic workshop and casting clinic for all in attenance. Mr. Fernandez also caught a striped bass on his "bent back" fly creation.

DOUBLE T FISHING CLUB SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Double T Fishing Club recently installed its officers for the new year, back in April. Angelo DiPierro was installed as President, Steve Kearney, Vice President, Phil Delaney, Secretary, Al Janotta, Treasurer, and Roy Kappauf, Sgt.-at-Arms.

The Double T Fishing Club is a small club located in Elmont which is in the vicinity of Franklin Square. Our fishing activity is limited to 6 trips on a charter boat a year, which is open to guests as well as members.

The club is actively seeking new members. An interest in fishing and enjoying a day in the fresh air is all that is required. The club meets the 3rd Monday of each month at Jack's Town Tavern in Elmont. Anyone interested in joining should call our President, Angelo DiPierro any time after 7PM, at 516-352-2212.

2ND ANNUAL HUDSON CANYON INVITATIONAL BILLFISH AND TUNA TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by the Squadron Anglers Fishing Club of Massapequa, this tournament is open to individual entries and two-boat club teams. Entry fee is $250 per boat. Tournament will be held on August 8th and 9th.

Headquarters and fish weigh-ins will be at the Anchorage Dock in Lindenhurst. Cash and tackle prizes will be awarded for the biggest blue marlin, white marlin, tuna and swordfish. Dolphin, Albacore and mako shark will also be rewarded. Prizes will be awarded at a September dinner party.

George Combs is weighmaster and will award a trophy for the biggest fish caught. Information and application blanks can be obtained at: George Combs Bait & Tackle, 74 Merrick Rd., Amityville, N.Y. 11701, or call 516-264-3525.

STRANIERE TELLS ARMY CORPS PIT PROJECT IS UNSOUND

Robert A. Straniere, Assemblyman 60th A.D., today released a statement questioning the environmental impact of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposal to dump dredge spoils in a subaqueous borrow pit near the Chapel Hill Channel.

Straniere said, "If the Chapel Hill site were to prove unsuitable there would be little recourse for correcting any adverse impact on the surrounding marine environment. If this area were to become spoiled, many Island fishermen could lose their means of livelihood."

"The public has yet to be presented with evidence used to determine that the Chapel Hill location will be the most suitable test area," Straniere

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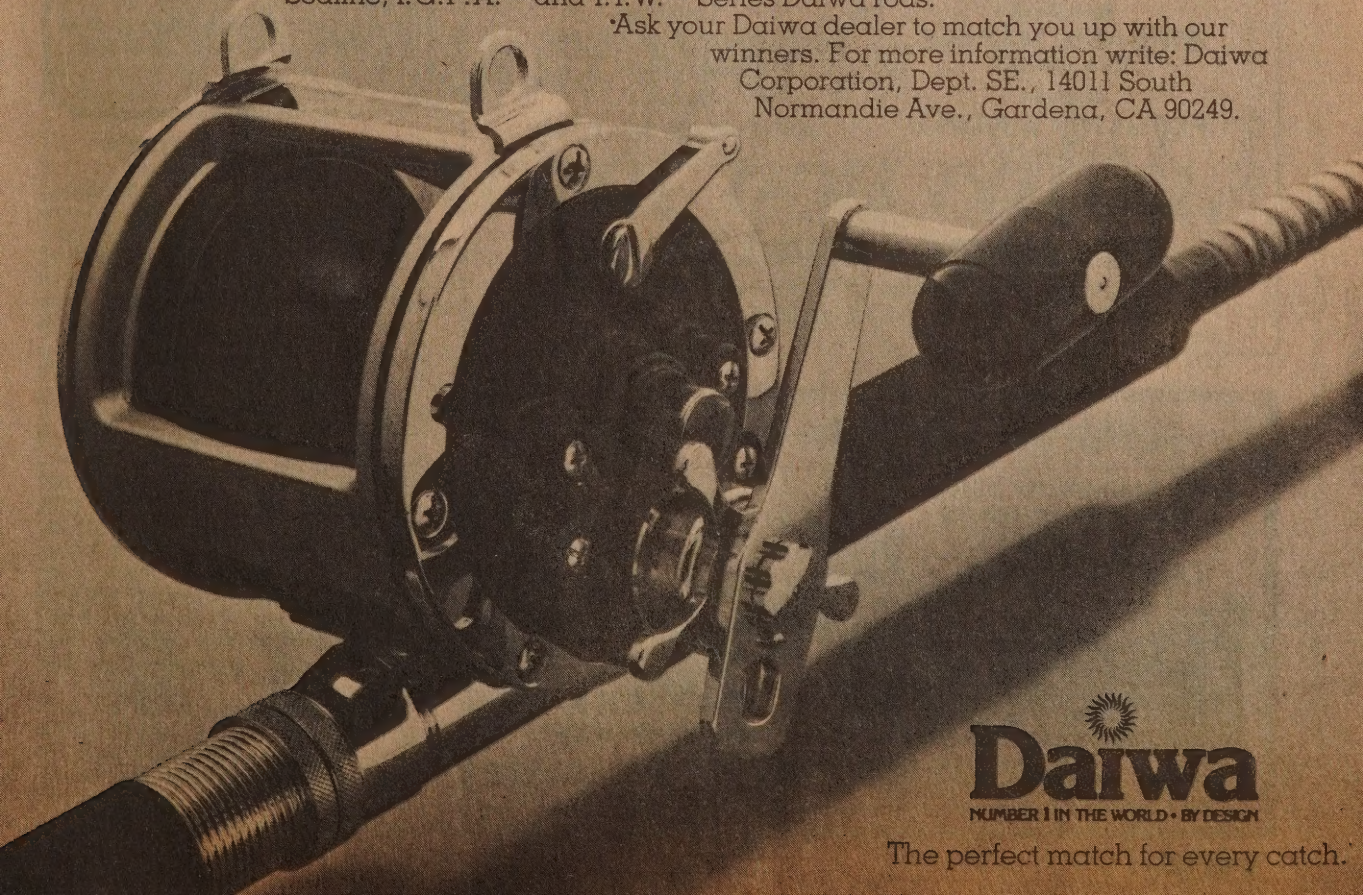
Last year Daiwa launched Sealine rods and reels. Sealine reels are the first reels in the mid-price range to offer such high-performance features as all-metal construction, one-piece frame and a smooth-running, surge free drag. Sealine won the confidence of seasoned fishermen and proved itself at sea in a single season.

16,000 pounds of hard fighting ocean fish were caught on a single, light duty Sealine reel. The reel withstood this punishment so well, it wasn't even necessary to change the drag washers. Practically overnight, Sealine became a favorite with serious ocean fishermen.

This year we've added the new 30H reel for heavy freshwater and light saltwater fishing, and the 900H for extra heavy-duty angling. We've also added two new heavy-duty models with stainless steel spools. Now there are 12 Sealine reels that can be matched to Sealine, I.G.F.A.™ and T.T.W.™ Series Daiwa rods.

•Ask your Daiwa dealer to match you up with our winners. For more information write: Daiwa Corporation, Dept. SE., 14011 South Normandie Ave., Gardena, CA 90249.



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said.

(The site selected for this experimental dumping is located approximately four miles off Staten Island in close proximity to the Chapel Hill, Ambrose, and Swash Channels.)

The South Shore Republican recommended that the "Corps of Engineers withdraw its application pending the completion of the necessary site specific environmental studies."

NEW BOOK ON BASS

Freshwater anglers will be very interested in a new book by Bob Boyle, which is simply titled "Bass." The price of this 150-page book isn't so simple at $27.50, but I have no hesitation in recommending anything written by Bob Boyle—even sight unseen. As an editor of "Sports Illustrated," Boyle has uncovered many threats to the waters of our country, and he's also written the definitive history of his beloved (but much abused) Hudson River. The new book is illustrated with 80 pages of color photography by noted underwater photographer Elgin Ciampi and covers the complete life history of the fish from the egg until the grave, or more hopefully, the frying pan. Among the interesting facts—a one-year-old bass can be anywhere from two to fourteen inches long, depending on food supply. "Bass" is published by W.W. Norton & Co., Inc., 500 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10036.

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Daiwa's Prolite light baitcasting reels were designed to set a new standard for quality, endurance and high-performance in baitcasting tackle. And from the response we've had from anglers throughout the country, they are everything they're cracked up to be in our advertising—and a lot more. They're extremely light in weight, fast, and outstanding in casting and drag performance.

There are four models presently in the Prolite reel series. These are the PL-100 and PL-1000 narrow-spool models, and the PL-150 and PL-1500 models with standard width spools. The PL-100 and PL-150 are brush chrome finished and are fitted with economical, smooth-running sintered metal bushings. The camera-black finished PL-1000 and PL-1500 reels run on sealed, stainless steel ball bearings.

All four reels have a fast 4.7 to 1 retrieve ratio, incredibly smooth drags, fast take-down right side for quick-changing centrifugal brake collars and spools, strong gearing and "palming"-style left side configura-

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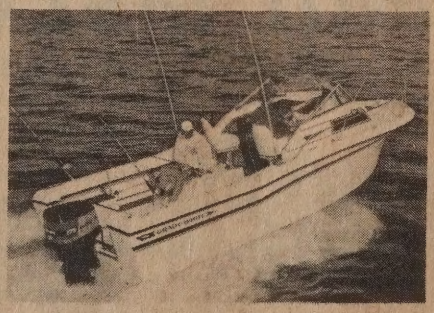

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tion. They weigh between 8.3 and 8.6 ounces, depending on the model.

The narrow spool models PL-100 and PL-1000 are ideally suited to walleye, smallmouth and largemouth bass fishing where line capacity if not really important. These models hold 110 yards of 10 lb. test mono (International Standard) or 145 yards of the same strength Stren.

The wider spool models PL-150 and PL-1500 hold 110 yards (International Standard) of 12 pound test mono. They carry over 200 yards of 8 lb. test Stren, which well suits them to light tackle freshwater striper and steelhead drift fishing.

Casting performance tests by the factory show their casting ease to be excellent. Casts averaging over 100 feet were attained on both the PL-100 and PL-1000 test reels using 1/4 oz. A.C.A. casting plugs, 10 lb. test Stren line, and the Prolite PL-30P medium-light action graphite-composite rod. Single-handed fishing casts averaging over 130 feet were attained using the PL-100 and PL-1000 models with 5/8 ounce A.C.A. plugs, 10 lb. test Stren, and the medium-action Prolite PL-60P rod. The lightest centrifugal brake collars were used in the testing, which was conducted in a slight following breeze.

Obviously, the new reels are ideally suited to fishing the lighter weight lures on light-test lines because of their fast spool rotation.

Baitcasting models of the new Prolite rods have received praise from big-name bass pros, like Bill Dance, Bobby Murray, Larry Nixon and Paul Chamblee. Actions range from medium-light to medium heavy, and include two bass "pitching" rods with telescoping handles that permit storage in 6 foot bass boat lockers.

For further information, write Daiwa Corporation, 14011 South Normandie Ave., Gardena, CA 90249.

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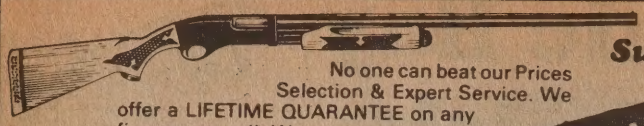

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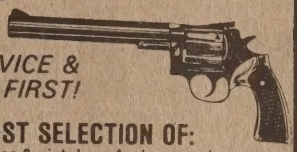

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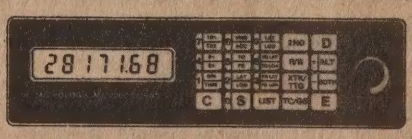

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DIGITAL TACH FROM DYTEK

Russel Kittel, President of Dytek Laboratories, announced today that Patent No. 404,093,916 has been granted covering Dytek's liquid crystal Digital Tachometer. Dytek patent covers a unique circuit feature that locks the precision time base of the tach to the input signal from engine, thereby, eliminating the asynchronism between the RPM of the engine and the fixed time base of the tachometer. With the Digital Tach, fractional pulses are not accumulated resulting in a steady, accurate digital display of RPM.

Kittel pointed out that with conventional digital tachometers, the bouncing last digit draws attention to the tachometer display itself. Analagous to a TV picture without vertical synchronization, the picture will continously roll along. Even though all the information is present the picture will be annoying to watch. Once the picture or engine RPM are synchronized, the operator will lose perception of the display mechanism and see only the resulting RPM reading. The long-life liquid crystal, 4 digit display ensures easy readibility in full sunlight or at night.

For more information, contact Bill Rauft, Product Manager, (516) 589-9200.

NATIONAL SCENE

USATT May Be In Danger!

by Al Ristori

As noted in previous columns, the sudden development of a handline fishery in the tuna regulatory area south of Cape Cod could have serious consequences for local fishermen in view of the small quota assigned to this area. However, I assumed that there was enough flexibility in the regulatory process to permit the transfer of some unused portion of the northern quota to the south in order to compensate for a sudden increase in pressure created by a new commercial handline fishery. Unfortunately, there is no such hope, and both the U.S. Atlantic Tuna Tournament and the entire Mud Hole tuna fishery stand in jeopardy!

According to Allen E. Peterson, Jr., Northeast Regional Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), "The in-season transfer of a portion of the northern quota to the southern area is not legally possible and any proposals to accommodate this sort of adjustment would require a regulatory change." In his letter of June 3rd, Peterson goes on to note that: "As far as tournaments are concerned, development of a hot fishery in either the northern or southern area would put many tournaments in jeopardy, especially those held in September. If quotas in either area were to be filled, the only alternative would be to hold tag and release tournaments."

The mid-September time frame for the USATT makes it very vulnerable to a quota closure, and it would be difficult to arrange that contest on a tag-and-release basis. An honest tournament of that sort requires observers, and that would be very hard to arrange for the massive fleet involved. I suspect that cancellation would be more likely if our quota is filled, and it would be ironic if Block Island was forced to suffer a substantial off-season economic loss while there was a surplus of quota to the north.

In his letter, Peterson emphasizes the fact that most of the permits issued have been to boats in the northern area—or to boats which fish in the northern area. Indeed, he estimates that the northern area accounts for 8,200 of the more than 8,500 permits current as of early June. Figuring the smaller average size of the giants in the southern area (about 450 lbs. in 1980) and the number of boats currently involved, Al estimates that the quota provides for over one fish per licensed fisherman. Peterson refers to "licensed fishermen" in every case, but the permits are actually issued to boat owners—and any number of fishermen can fish aboard those boats during the season without any need for being licensed themselves. Given the larger size in the northern area (Peterson uses the figure of 775 lbs.), the average number of fish available in the quota to each licensed operator would be only 0.30. Of course, the vast majority of licensed boats do little or no tuna fishing, and most of the handgear catch is made by commercial handliners.

While Peterson's statistics would seem to indicate that the present system is equitable, my objection is based on trends. Despite (or, perhaps, because of) ever-increasing pressure in the northern area, the giant tuna catch continues to decline. Even with sharply increased daily quotas, that huge fleet couldn't come close to filling the seasonal quota last year. The statistics indicate that the southern quota was only about half-filled, but I don't know of any tuna fisherman in our area who really believes that the actual catch was nearly as low as that reported by NMFS. That agency is right on top of everything coming into Massachusetts, as they are based in Gloucester. On the other hand, the explosion of giant tuna in the Mud Hole last fall seemed to surprise them as much as it did many area anglers—and their fish count seems to be quite low.

However, that isn't the real problem. Even our small quota would probably carry the local fleet throughout the season, but a sudden influx of northern handliners could turn everything topsy-turvy. That additional pressure, applied off Block Island in the summer, could chew up our quota before the USATT and the Metropolitan Mud Hole fishery ever get under way. Worst of all, there isn't a thing we can do to stop it should it occur! There is no restriction on who can fish where, and the regulations prohibit shifting of quotas even should the entire northern fleet descend on our area.

Right now it appears that we have no choice other than to keep our fingers crossed that everything works out well this year. However, concerned anglers better get off their butts and realize the possible consequences of the present system. Now is the time to put pressure on for a change in the regulations which would restrict the southern quota to rod and reel, and also make the quotas a little more flexible so as to allow transfers either way should one of the allocations remain unfilled at the end of the season. Direct your correspondence to Mr. Allen E. Peterson, Jr., Regional Director, NMFS, State Fish Pier, Gloucester, MA. 01930.

"Stop Ocean Dumping" Stickers Available from ALS

Federal law requires that ocean dumping of sewer sludge must stop by the end of this year. However, New York City and some sewerage authorities from northern New Jersey are attempting to get an extension. In order to bring this matter to public attention, the American Littoral Society has re-issued its "Stop Ocean Dumping" sticker, specifying 1981 as the deadline year. You can obtain these 4" x 4" stickers for $1 each by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the American Littoral Society, Sandy Hook, Highlands, NJ 07732. The ALS also has a horseshoe crab poster with the saying "they can't hurt you...don't hurt them." These posters are available at 4 for $1 and are particularly appropriate at this time since these primitive creatures are moving onto bay beaches to lay eggs—and are defenseless against those who feel the need to destroy anything with which they are not familiar.

More Good Reading

Fly fishermen, and those interested in getting involved in that sport, will do well to check out the two latest Scientific Anglers fly fishing annuals, "Fly-Rodding for Bass" ($2.50) and "Fly Fishing for Panfish and Other Warm Water Species" ($1.95). Both annuals include articles covering a wide range of fly fishing opportunities, making them suitable for both expert and novice. If not available on newsstands, they can be ordered at the cover price from Scientific Anglers/3M, Dept. A, P.O. Box 33984, St. Paul, MN 55133.

BLUEFISH — Most Popular Species In Our Area

Part Two — *by William A. Muller*

LAST WEEK! Last week we took a look at some remarkable statistics about bluefish. We asked some questions about this fish. We wondered if all the blues of the world were part of one species or several. We also wondered aloud why the blue was the most popular recreational species. We have another thought on this. It has been suggested by others that bluefish become extremely important to recreational fishermen when the abundance of other species declines. When the striped bass is abundant then, it has been said, the popularity of bluefish fades somewhat; but with bass declining over this decade, the interest in blues increases greatly. When you add in the sizes of the blues that have been available recently, you get a very clear picture of a fish that is big, strong, abundant, a willing adversary, and popular.

SPAWNING. There are, according to scientific reports, two spawning areas in the western Atlantic Ocean. These areas correspond with seasonal spawning. The first spawning occurs in the spring on the Continental Shelf between northern Florida and Cape Hatteras. This spawning seems to occur in April and May. The second spawning area is located on the Continental Shelf between Chesapeake Bay and Long Island. This summer spawning is believed to go on from June through August. Whereas the spring spawn area is virtually in the Gulf Stream, the summer spawning occurs to the northwest of the Gulf Stream. According to scientists, the blues that are spawned at the summer site, remain offshore and then migrate south to the Cape Hatteras area in the fall and winter-over there. That would mean that our snappers are the young of the year spawned off the southeastern United States in April and May. To me it is not conceivable that these tiny fish swim about 1,000 miles to spend the summer in our estuaries. However, since the scientists say that these young blues are spawned in the Gulf Stream, we can find a mechanism by which they find their way into our bays. That is, the eggs and then fry must drift northward with the Gulf Stream until they arrive off the Middle Atlantic states. At that point then, they would swarm inshore. Further, the two-month spawning period (April/May) explains why there are snappers of such divergent sizes in our bays and why it appears that later in the summer there suddenly appears a new group of very small snappers.

FEEDING! Any bluefisherman knows that blues feed on almost anything. What they will feed on at any one time is dependent upon what is available and the size of the blues. Early arriving blues will eat anything from lobsters to other fast-swimming fish. Blues are not put off by the size of the potential prey so that small to medium fish will attack rather larger fish for their size. That they can chop up the prey with large and sharp teeth makes even prey similar in size to the blues fair game. However, the small to medium-sized fish will tend to prefer smaller baits such as small bunker, sand eels, spearing, anchovy, killies, small flounder, etc. Larger blues will tend to follow larger baits such as large herring, large bunker, mackerel, butterfish, etc. They will even eat their own species as well as small stripers, weaks, etc. The explanation for the preference of larger baits by larger blues is keyed to the energy that must be expended in order to catch enough food to satisfy their appetites. If small bait is very thick and larger baits not readily available, they will feed rather efficiently on the small bait. Typically however, small baits will be spread out too much and the cost in energy to chase down the prey will prohibit prolonged feeding on it. The larger blues will continue moving in search of either dense aggregations of small bait or schools of larger baits. The voraciousness of the feeding habits of the blues (swimming at speed through the bait) will also tend to disperse small baits too much to warrant continued feeding. Stripers and large weaks are very similar in this respect to blues: larger specimens will seek out larger prey.

WHO EATS WHO? Large bluefish actually have relatively few predators. Small blues are not easy targets for larger predators, but their abundance and easily distracted feeding habits make them vulnerable to predators including striped bass, weakfish, larger bluefish, as well as the open ocean species such as billfish, tunas, sharks, and wahoo. The large ocean fishes also can catch, and do eat even very large bluefish. We have received reports from fishermen who have observed mako sharks in a cooperative feeding pattern to trap large bluefish. The nature of who competes with the bluefish changes with the seasons. When the blues are inshore their main competition will come from striped bass. However, when wintering over and when migrating in the open ocean, they will compete for food with other large open ocean species such as Spanish mackerel, king mackerel, small tunas.

PATTERNS OF CHANGING IMPORTANCE. Angler surveys are albeit very strange undertakings. You can confront a surf fisherman on his way from the beach to his or her vehicle and ask questions about their fishing. The answers you get will vary. Whether you encounter that fisherperson in daylight hours or at night, how long that person has been fishing the surf, whether the person is carrying any fish, plus other factors will more determine the answers you get than the actual number of fish the person caught or didn't catch. Most truly seasoned surf fishing people will fish mostly at night. True, there are times in the season when the daylight hours can be productive, but I believe that my statement remains, on the whole, accurate. Most seasoned surf fishermen are very practiced in the art of stealth. You rarely see them catch a fish and you rarely see the fish. This is so because it is a custom to guard a productive surf spot carefully and keep knowledge about that location within a small group. Thus, if you sample and survey in the day you'll likely sample mostly less-seasoned surf fishermen and their catch will be less than that of the more experienced angler. If you sample at night, you'll likely never see the experienced anglers unless you chase after them on the beach. The less experienced surf fishermen will either tell the truth or, perhaps, embarrassed about catching nothing, will invent glorious tales. With that example, you get a hint about the problems involved in surveying fisherpeople. However, any survey does yield valuable information even if the data surrenders only

estimates and hints grudgingly. It is also true that surveys are getting more and more reliable, because those that make and give the survey have learned about the built-in problems and have devised some methods to get around them. Thus, surveys get better and better every year; but we are still far from close to the perfect survey.

HISTORY OF BLUEFISH SURveys. Therefore, for what it's worth, the surveys done since 1960 reveal clearly that bluefish are very important to recreational fishermen, but cause some doubt about the contention of some experts who insist that the popularity of blues has been growing steadily over the last two decades because they have been abundant, spread over a vast area of coast line, have been responsive to angling techniques, and because of the decline of stripers. In 1960, along the Atlantic East Coast, bluefish accounted for 7.5% of the total recreational catch. By 1965 that number was 10.9%, by 1970 it was 13.2%, and in 1979, 31.2%. The changes between 1960 and 1970 were modest and when one considers that earlier surveys were admittedly less reliable, the difference of a few percent seems unimportant. The real jump occurs between the 1970 and the 1979 survey. In fact the percentage, as you can see from the above, more than doubled! Survey skills took a quantum leap in the Seventies and one must wonder about how greatly this factor influenced the discovered percentages. We tend to think that the general decline in a variety of saltwater species contributed to the increase in apparent importance of bluefish. Almost any species that you can mention has been declining in one degree or another. Mackerel are only now improving compared to two decades ago and the numbers still aren't what they used to be. Fluke hit a peak in the mid-Seventies, but have been steadily declining. Blowfish are no more, cod have been picky at best, stripers have declined, weaks are on the way down, and even the common flounder and whiting can't be caught in the numbers they once were. We also think that the rise of fishing publications has contributed because, as specialists, we have opened up new fishing horizons. The modern media gets more accurate information, more abundant information, and reports it faster than any other and it gets faster and better every year.

LOOK FOR MORE ON BLUES IN UPCOMING ISSUES.

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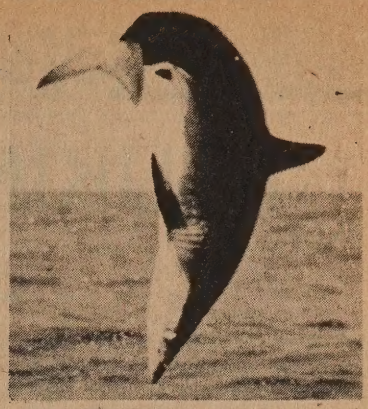

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FLUKING FROM SHORE

by Steven Korman

EDITOR'S NOTE: Many of our readers are teenagers. We consider ourselves privileged in this regard, because we are participating in a youth-fishing movement that can only make the world a better place. We frequently receive story queries from youngsters and once in awhile, it works out. This article was written by 15-year-old Steve Korman. It's damn good and we believe we're reading the words of a future surf PRO.

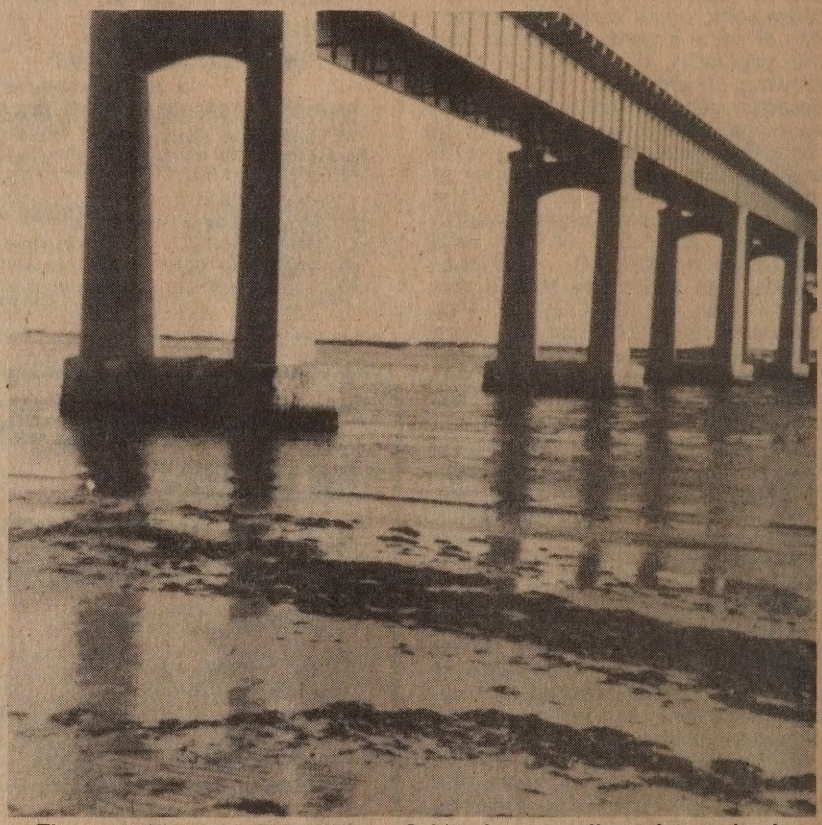
Shore casting for fluke is a popular late spring and summer pastime along the south shore of Long Island. This is not surprising, for it can be an extremely productive method for taking these popular warm-weather flatfish. Shallow shore line waters usually harbor good amounts of baitfish, which attract the hungry fluke.

Most astute bottom fishermen know that south shore inlets (particularly Fire Island Inlet) are excellent late spring and summer producers of fluke. If you doubt my word on this, just check the inlet on any fine early summer day and count the number of boats you spot drifting for fluke. I'll bet you spend quite a bit of time doing so. Nearly all Captree party boat captains with their eyes set on fluke will be seen working the inlet too. These fishermen are aware of the multitudes of fluke inhabiting this fairly large stretch of water, and those party boat captains are betting their fares' money on it.

Sandbars, too, are excellent producers of fluke, as the flatfish frequently prowl these areas in search of the sand-burrowing baitfish which make up a good part of their diet. Now, combine the two fluke havens mentioned, and you come up with a hotspot such as the sandbar at the northern foot of the Robert Moses Bridge.

If you wish to try your luck at catching fluke from the beach, this is an excellent place to start. Access to the bridge is gained by parking in the southwest corner of the Captree parking lot and taking the short hike to the bridge. Do not be tempted to park on the grass found just before the bridge, for this will usually result in a parking fine. Bait and tackle can be purchased at the Captree Bait Shop at the front of the lot on the dock.

It has been my experience that two hous before to two hours after the high tide are best here, but I often find that much of the falling tide will produce well. If you can combine high tide with about eight in the morning or four in the afternoon, you have a winning combination.



The west side of the Robert Moses Bridge is an excellent place to begin casting for fluke. Photo by the author.

Most people who fish here use waders, as they add to casting distance. Even if you feel you can cast well enough without them, you should wade anyway to avoid retrieving your rig against someone's leg, and thereby driving your hook into his waders, or worse—his flesh. Some fishermen also wade in shorts or bathing suits, as the water is warm enough for this at this time of year. Just remember to wear sneakers or something similar to protect your feet, and be careful of the horseshoe crabs which inhabit the south shore bays.

The sand bar here is fairly long, stretching quite a way along the beach. Water depth on the bar is not too great, and it's possible to walk out 30-35 ft. at high tide without going over your head. The dropoff from the bar to the inlet is a gradually sloping one, and casts anywhere from 20-40 ft. or more will produce fish.

The best spots to fish are from the bridge west. The left-hand side of the bridge contains too much seaweed and is more bother than it's worth. Strong winds cause weed problems, and since fluke do not tend to go shallow with heavy winds anyway, it's best to stay home on these days.

During the dog days of summer you'll find the shaded stretches of water under the bridge especially productive; fluke prowling the shallow waters tend to escape the glare of the sun under the wide structure. Another bonus of the bridge is that it provides suitable structure which weakfish seem to find to their liking, and occasionally a fluke fisherman has been surprised to reel in one of these beautiful fish.

And now tackle. Elaborate surf

gear is not essential, although I find a nine foot surf rod matched with a small spinning reel ideal. Lighter rods are used here, and freshwater rods similar to those used for weakfish seem to work fine. In any case, the rod should not be too stiff, for a stiff rod will cause a loss of sensitivity to bites.

Any small spinning reel capable of holding 175 yards of 12 lb. test line is fine. Some anglers use heavier lines, but I prefer to go lighter with 10 or 12 lb. test for better casting ability and more sport. And don't leave home without that landing net. Many fluke are lost here by anglers who try to reel the fish close and pick it up by hand. A net or gaff makes things easier and more foolproof. If you wanted to, you could back the fish up towards shore and beach it, but who wants to fight a four pound fluke or eight pound weakfish through a picket line of anglers? Risky business if you ask me.

I have found that the best bait for south shore bay and inlet fluke is a live killie. Many fishermen add a two or three inch pennant-shaped strip of squid on their hook along with the killie, which I've found to hamper some of the killie's action. Squid strips can be a plus though, especially in the spring to enhance my chances at hooking up with a weakfish. I like to believe that the added attractiveness that a small strip of squid provides makes up for lost action from the killie. However, the choice is yours.

Traditionally, fluke hooks of the heavy, long-shanked variety such as the Carlisle were and still are used extensively for fluke. Recently, there has been much talk about proper fluke patterns, and I believe that when fishermen start to experiment with lighter hooks such as the regular-shanked Sproat or Claw, they will find their catch increasing steadily. Large, long-shanked hooks weigh down the killie, thereby hampering the bait's natural swimming movements so necessary to entice a wary fluke into striking. Also, the large obvious hook itself might spook the fish.

These smaller hooks can be purchased at most tackle shops—snelled and unsnelled. I like to snell them myself, for I've found the leaders on the packaged hooks are much too thick for my liking. Which hook to use is up to you, but the important part is to put your faith in a regular-shanked Sproat or Claw hook gently embedded in the lips or tail of the killie. It won't be too long before you notice the difference in your catch.

The old adage, "The less hardware (snaps, swivels, spinners, etc.) on your bottom fishing rig, the better" is often quoted by old-timers who are used to the no-hardware rigs of the past. Nevertheless, there is much truth to this statement, and I believe that a bottom rig should be as simple as conditions warrant. The best rig is a #3/0 Sproat snelled on a three foot leader and tied in on a dropper loop about 2-5 inches above a bank sinker just heavy enough to keep your bait on in the current: simple, but effective. No flashers or spinners to detract from the action of the killie, and no three-way swivels to pick up seaweed. Keep your rig basic for best results.

Setting the hook can be tricky. Keep your line taut and give your rod undivided attention at all times, while you slowly reel in and/or jig lightly. When a bite is felt, stop reeling/jigging and give the fluke time to solidly take your offering. Do not be in a hurry to set the hook! You must give the fish time to engulf the whole bait. A little practice, and your missed hits will become fewer.

The shore line around the bridge is clean, sandy beach, and it's a nice place to take the family for a day in the sun. Remember to keep an eye on the kids and make sure they do not interfere with the casters.

One final note. Remember that there is a legal 14 inch limit in fluke, and any fluke smaller than this should be handled gently and returned to the water immediately. Don't try to cheat the law on this matter, for you will just be cheating on future populations of these fish for future fishermen to chase. THis applies not only to fluke, but to every sport fish whether there is a legal minimum or not. The law should not have to supply you with a conscience.

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OLD TIMER'S CORNER

BROTHERHOOD

by Matt Ahern

When we pick up a newspaper today, or turn on TV, the chances are excellent we'll find a well-known personality urging us to engage in brotherhood for the benefit of all. These are noble sentiments. How successful these pleadings are, I don't know. I wouldn't even attempt to guess. But when I was a boy, we needed no urging to practice brotherhood.

Those were the sink or swim days for many and we either helped one another or we all went down the tube. As for the word "brotherhood," I'm sure few had ever heard it mentioned in the sense it is used today—we just did what came naturally.

Before we get to the fishing, let me relate one or two incidents as the background of the times so that you may better understand what is to follow. Those of you who lived through the times will be on familiar ground.

When I was a boy a half-century ago, conditions in this country were rugged, what with the Great Depression and all. But I don't believe they were as hard as are many things today—what with modern-day inflation and all its accompanying misery. Having experienced both hindsight and the results of foresight, were I forced to make a choice between the two, I would opt for the days of my youth.

Now, I know some are saying: "Heck, old man, all you're expressing is a wish to return to those days when as a kid you had nothing to worry about." Hush! Say no more! Except you lived through those days, there can be no idea of the misery that existed for many.

As the years passed, I often wondered how we came through those sad times. And now as I sit before this typewriter, I am still wondering. But get through them we did. I believe the main reason for this was the inherent compassion we held for one another—for we were all in the same boat. This was the binding, the flux, that held us together, friend and stranger alike. Never will we see its like again.

I lived in a Brooklyn tenement at the time. The streets seemed always noisy (but only if one listened); they teemed with "wild" kids and the babble of foreign tongues was quite common. We street kids had a working knowledge of Italian, German, Polish, and Lithuanian, for our neighborhood was indeed a melting pot. Except for those of us who were born to such families, we couldn't speak these tongues. But we were well acquainted with their inflections.

The neighborhood housewives had unwritten parental permission to administer swift justice among us kids wherever just cause was found. Therefore, those of us who knew only English certainly understood the reasons why we got a bat alongside the head when we got a mite too big for our britches, or in some way infringed on the rights of others. Anger in any language is easily understood. Had you asked these strict disciplinarians the age-old question: "Am I my brother's keeper?" the answer would have been an unqualified "Yes."

Yes, we well understood the language—and if we were foolish enough to complain at home when we felt unjustly treated for "doing nothing," we received additional punishment. Our word and our "innocence" cut no ice. Thus we learned respect—the hard way.

And yet, as I say, there was much compassion those days. That same Mrs. Esposito, she of the rock-hard right arm, was the most compassionate of our neighbors. At least I've always believed this, for I can remember the times when her appearance was most welcome to many. To various neighbors she would deliver steaming-hot bowls of pasta vazool—spelled correctly, I hope. By some sixth sense, she divined when larders were dangerously low.

This kind lady had small knowledge of English, but she was mighty big of heart. With eight kids of her own to feed, she could ill-afford to share from her table. But she did. She would make weekly rounds and when she decided to visit the Ahern household, I vividly recall her hesitant tappings on our tenement door, her embarrassed smile, and words of warning: "Watch, kid. Hot. God bless." God bless you, too, Mrs. Esposito. I love you still.

Then there were the Feldmans. They owned the candy store and were the only Jewish family in our immediate neighborhood. They had a son, Aaron, who was a good buddy of mine. I've written about Aaron before, how we chummed together and shared the good times while fishing for snappers and lafayettes from Canarsie's City Pier. Aaron and I had dreams about eventually owning a party boat together, but we never made it. Aaron died on Guadalcanal during the Second World War.

How the Feldmans kept body and soul together those early days, I don't know. Mr. and Mrs. Feldman were hard workers. They kept their tiny store open from six in the morning to midnight, seven days a week. But with all that, they were cheerful enough.

Mr. Feldman's only worry came during the religious holidays. He closed the store then, and when he did, it became the target of any band of troublemakers. These hooligans, all strangers to us, roved foreign neighborhoods during the High Holy Days, venting their meanness on the Jewish population by kicking in doors, or breaking plate-glass store windows.

Only once did the Feldmans' store suffer damage. After that, the young men of the neighborhood—who were much older than us—took it upon themselves to put a halt to it. Each holiday they armed themselves with baseball bats and stood guard outside Mr. Feldman's store, from midnight until two—three o'clock in the morning.

In that group, as near as I can recall, were "Dutch" Wagensiel, newly-arrived immigrant from the Black Forest region of Germany; Bob Kelly, a wild Irishman if there ever was one, and who according to many was certain to wind up in prison, but instead became of all things an aide to Mayor LaGuardia; and the Gibbons brothers, Charlie and Paul. Paul became a priest. There were several others, but these fellows are all I remember.

It was because of this compassion (brotherhood, if you will) that the Feldman family were never troubled again.

These are but two examples of how we managed to survive those hectic days. I guess you might say folks those days took care of their own.

Now, we'll get to the fishing—but a word of warning: we aren't through with brotherhood yet.

During the early Thirties, I was a mate on the old Rose R II out of Canarsie. Fishing was pretty good those days—but not always, regardless of what you may have heard. Most of us who had a sincere interest in fishing had little difficulty learning the ropes. Our excellent tutors were

most likely to be regulars who frequented the party boats on a weekly basis. To me, it seemed there was nothing about the fishing game that these fellows didn't know. All one needed to do was ask.

One of those regulars who unselfishly shared his knowledge with me was a black man named Cyril. He was some fisherman, let me tell you. Codfishing was his love and he knew more about these fish than any mortal man had a right to. Everyone liked Cyril—it was not impossible not to. It was "Hey! Here comes Cyril. He'll show you how to catch 'em." Or "Hi, Cyril! Gonna knock 'em dead today?" Cyril would grin and say something like: "Don't worry, I'll leave some for you."

Cyril's best friend was a white man named Tom. They were inseparable. You never saw one without the other close by. I'd been told their friendship went back at least forty years. It was fishing that brought them together.

As I got the story, both Cyril and Tom were childless widowers and had been so for years. They first became acquainted when they worked as van men for a piano moving company, and from there, a deep, abiding friendship blossomed, nutured by an intensve love of fishing. They worked and fished together for years until the day Tom became seriously injured on the job. So seriously that he could never work again.

When it became apparent that Tom would have to struggle just for a meager existence, Cyril took over. He gave up his own home and moved in with Tom. He would allow nothing to happen to his old friend. Cyril paid the rent, bought the food, the medicine, did the cooking, and all those things without which we as human beings cannot long exist. He nursed Tom far enough back to good health so that they could again go fishing. It had taken several years.

Then one day this great friendship came to a tragic end.

It occurred on a December day in 1934. We were codfishing on the offshore Seabright Grounds and Tom was beside me at the stern rail. The cod, all pretty good sized, were coming over the rail with regularity. As I recall, few fish were under ten pounds and most were larger. I was twenty-years-old at the time and those fish were giving me a hard time, therefore I wasn't surprised when Tom, who was in his mid-sixties, put his rod aside and stopped fishing.

"Can't take it, eh, Tom" I joked.

"Boy, Marty, I feel rotten. I'm weak and dizzy. Maybe I'll go down below awhile."

Cyril, who seemed super-sensitive to all his ailing friend's reactions, gently took him by the arm and led him to the forward cabin. Minutes passed and I continued to fish. Then I heard a commotion from the vicinity of the wheel house. I quickly reeled in, lay the rod aside, and went forward.

There stood Cyril and he was very much upset. "I think Tom's having a heart attack. Skipper, I think he's dying! Please...can't we go in?"

"You bet, Cyril. Lines up, fellers! Marty, get that anchor in! Hurry! Cut if you have to!"

During those days party boats didn't have ship-to-shore phones or other electronic devices. Once you got out there, you were on your own. But we hooked up and pushed that old Fairbanks-Morse diesel as far as it would go. Black smoke belched from the funnel and fortunately the seas were calm enough so that we could keep up the pace.

When we arrived off Barren Island, we slowed and asked several pier fishermen if they would phone ahead and have an ambulance meet us at the dock. This they did, for when we arrived, medical help was available. Tom was taken away and for two days no one knew what had happened.

Then Cyril showed up as we returned from offshore. He stepped aboard, tears streaming down his face. "Tom died last night, fellers," he said. And that was all he said. He stepped back on shore and disappeared among the strollers.

We never saw Cyril again.

So—this was brotherhood and compassion as I knew it in the old days. I hope never to see those days again, but as I said in the beginning—if I had my choice...

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Right Power For Small Boats

by Bob Whittier

You've decided to buy a 13' aluminum utility boat, feeling it will extend the scope, productivity and pleasure of your panfishing activities. So now the question is: what outboard motor to get to go with it? You feel confused, perhaps even frustrated by the number of models available in the "fishing motor" range—everything from three and four horsepower up to 15 and 20 being included in it.

As a starter, read figures on the "capacity plate" that Federal law requires to be affixed to every small boat. But remember that the figures these plates carry are **maximum** load and horsepower ratings. Their prime purpose is to cope with the twin safety problems of overloading and overpowering.

Suppose the plate on the 13-footer you've chosen says that the boat is rated to carry a maximum of 25 h.p.; but you don't care to pay out the price of a 25, and horse sense tells you you just don't need that kind of performance for lake or bay fishing. And if you contemplate cartopping your boat, you obviously don't want to struggle with the 100 or 110 lbs. a typical 25 weighs, on each trip.

What you want, then, is the lowest possible power that will still give adequate performance.

As a starter, consider the load you will normally carry. In any smaller boat, the weight of a person is a much greater proportion of the total boat, motor and load weight than is true in a larger boat. When a second person gets into a 20', 200 h.p. offshore boat, the effect of his weight is so small as to be hard to detect. But when a second person—especially if he's a big fellow—gets into your 13' aluminum boat, his weight is going to have a rather noticeable effect on the way the boat gets onto plane and scoots along. Thus, if you will be fishing alone or with just a kid for a passenger, you can get by with a smaller motor than if you are going to carry 2 or 3 adults most of the time.

Running a small motor at full throttle won't hurt it, mechanically. A small piston traveling a two-inch stroke covers only half the distance than does a large piston traveling a four inch stroke, assuming both motors are run at the same rpm. So rubbing friction and bearing loads in the little motor are not excessive at full speed.

The penalty in running a small motor wide open is in fuel consumption. If you must use full throttle to make a small motor keep your boat on plane, you may use more fuel than if you had a moderately larger motor that could maintain good speed while throttled back to a moderate cruising rpm. A 5 h.p. motor just barely adequate to plane out your boat could be okay if most of your operation is short hops from one fishing spot to another. But a 7.5 h.p. motor could work out much better if you make many long runs to and from the fishing grounds.

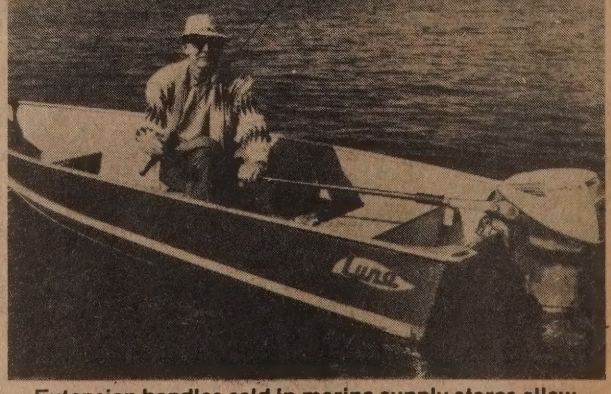
Here's a point to remember: a 6 h.p. motor represents a 10% increase in power over a 3 h.p. one. Quite naturally, any boat will respond noticeably to doubling its power.

Power ratings may puzzle you. Why do some firms offer both 4 and 4.5 h.p. motors? Usually, the slightly more powerful ones have more features like gearshifts, remote tanks, better silencing, etc., with the extra half horse thrown in for sales appeal. Many motors are rated at 9.9 instead of 10 h.p. so they can qualify for use on lakes having 10 h.p. motor limits. Usually, identical motors are offered in 15 h.p. ratings, for use on waters not so restricted. Bore, stroke, displacement, gear ratio, etc., are identical but top rpm and hence, power are higher due to changes in carburetor, tuning, etc.

Boat length and weight alone do not govern performance potential. Take a round-bilged boat say 14' long and 50" wide and compare it with a sharp-chined boat of the same dimensions. Rounding off the bilge, necessary for forming reasons in many aluminum boats, takes away from some of the bottom area. So with more bottom area and sharp corners where bottom and sides meet, a hard-chine boat may lift onto plane easier and go faster.

Just as with larger motors, choosing the right propeller to get the best out of a given combination of small boat and motor is important. It pays to buy from a dealer who really knows boats and boating. A big plus about smaller motors is that they are quick to put on and take off a boat; a dealer located on the waterfront may let you try two or more smaller motors on the boat of your choice, to decide on the one that works best for you.

Choosing the most appropriate motor for a small utility boat requires some thought if an all-around safe, economical and useful combination is to be achieved.



Extension handles sold in marine supply stores allow a lone occupant to sit amidships. Resulting better boat balance can result in materially better performance from a motor of low power.

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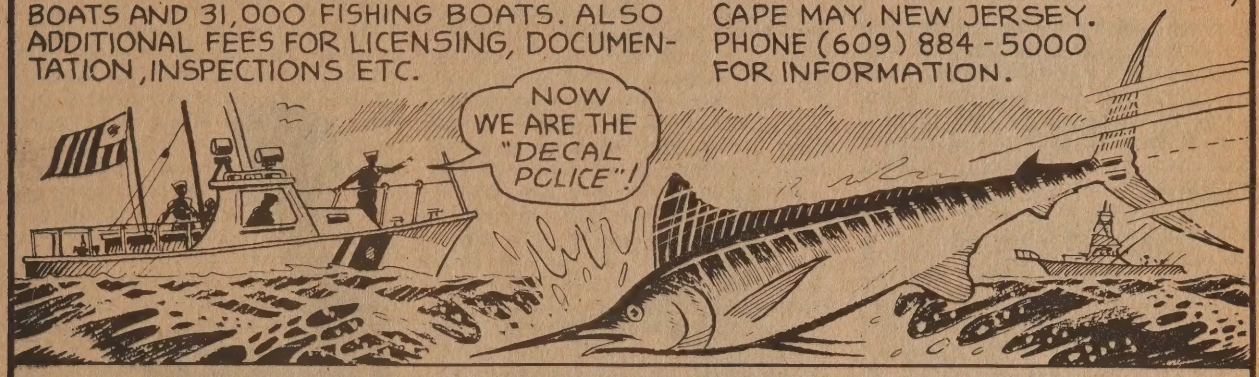

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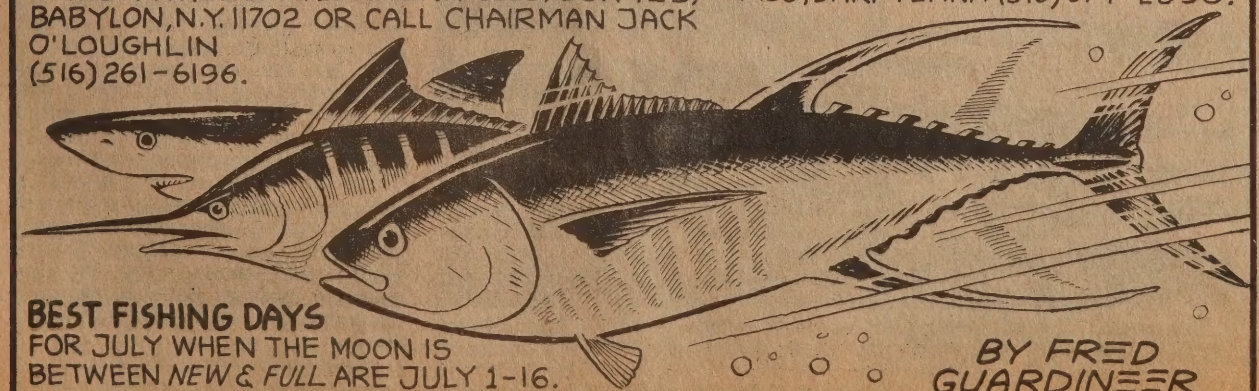


BEST FISHING DAYS FOR JULY WHEN THE MOON IS BETWEEN *NEW* & *FULL* ARE JULY 1-16.

BY FRED GUARDINEER

SUNTAN OR SCUP

by Gerald Hahn

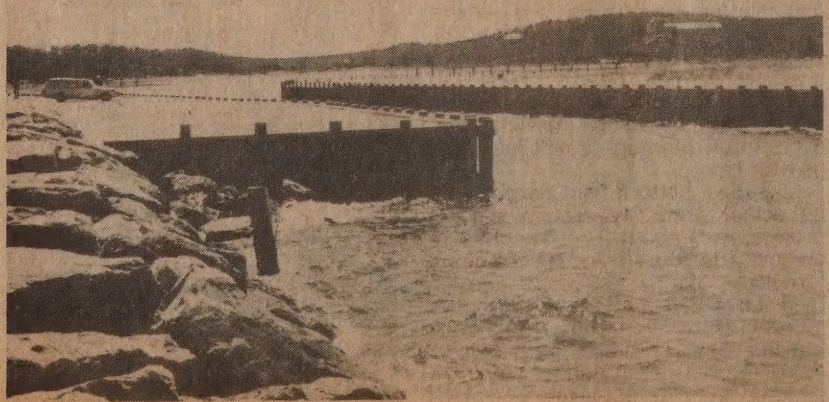
Summer surfcasters frequently wind up with suntans instead of fish because most species move offshore during the day. One exception is the porgy, a scrappy little bottom fish, who is bothered neither by summer heat nor shallow water. In fact, porgies seem to thrive on them.

Still, there is a considerable difference, even in porgy behavior, if you compare their activity in the cool hours of dawn to the soaring temperatures of midday. As an example, one summer, some years ago, I had the opportunity to stay at a friend's house, near Shoreham on Long Island Sound, for a week. In those days, the east jetty could be fished and was easily accessible to the numerous people who like to fish for porgies. The first two days I fished there, I began around 7:30 a.m.—a reasonably early hour for an angler, I presumed—but I noticed that the fish ing slacked off considerably, after 9AM, when most people arrived. It must be the tide, I reasoned, since bottom fish are usually most active around a tidal change. I soon discovered that in fact it was the water temperature. The next day I arrived at the jetty just before daylight and as soon as the dawn broke, the porgies started feeding with an aggressiveness I had not encountered before. In fact, I caught more porgies in an hour than I had on the first two days. And since I continued fishing successfully here for the rest of the week at dawn, the tides, changing an hour or so later each day, had less to do with their feeding habits than did the water temperature. For the shore-bound angler, then, who prefers a decent catch in his bucket to a decent suntan on his body, dawn is the time to fish for scup.

Anglers fishing for porgies on Long Island Sound find that jetties provide deep water and greater catches.

Most of the porgies within reach of the surfcaster are located either on Long Island Sound or the eastern bays, between the north and south forks: Peconic Bay and Gardiner's Bay. The former usually requires heavier gear; the latter is better with lighter gear. For the Sound, a 9' surf rod with a matching spinning reel, filled with 20 lb. test, should be considered. The long rod and heavy line are necessary because the bottom is rough. Moreover, sometimes heavy sinkers are required to hold the bottom. Fishing in the bays, however, can be done with a 7' or an 8' spinning rod and a smaller reel, filled with 10 lb. test. Normally, sinkers weighing only an ounce or two are used, and casts are generally shorter as well. However, these guidelines are not hard and fast, for there are places where reversing the equipment may be better. For instance, fishing from a jetty (such as Shoreham) on the Sound, can easily be performed with a 7' rod and light line. The jetty's tip puts you in deep water, and the area within casting distance is usually unobstructed sandy bottom. On the other hand, casting into the fast channels (such as Sebonac Neck) in Peconic Bay, is best done with a surf rod.

Nonetheless, the same kind of rig may be used for both types of fishing. This consists of two hooks in tandem;



In the eastern bays, small inlets, like this one off Gardiner's Bay, are good porgy spots.

similar to a flounder rig. Number 1 Beak or Claw hooks with sliced shanks, on 12'' snelled leaders of 30 lb. test, are perfectly matched for the voracious, bait-stealing porgy. The simplest rig consists of a snap swivel tied to the main line with an improved clinch knot. A bank sinker of appropriate weight is put on the swivel, together with the tandem tied hooks. Those who fish in rough terrain, however, many find that a short leader of 30 lb. test, makes a stronger rig. The leader, about 8'' long, is connected to the main line, by means of a barrel swivel and two improved clinch knots. At the bottom of the leader, an end loop is tied for the sinker and 2'' or 3'' above, a dropper loop for the hooks. When the water is full of debris, a hi-lo rig may be more effective. Here, an 18'' leader is connected, as before, as is the sinker and the bottom dropper loop. A second dropper, a little more than 12'' above the first, takes care of the top hook, which usually clears the debris, but not the porgies.

By far, the best bait to use for summer scup is a sandworm. Bloodworms and even earthworms will take porgies, as well. At times, clams, mussels, or small strips of squid, will attract porgies, although I find these baits more effective when fishing from a boat in deep water. Cut the worm into two or three small pieces, threading one on each hook, so that the sliced barbs secure it. Let only a trace dangle below the point because porgies, with their small, pointy mouths and their lightning pecks, can strip a dangling bait from a hook before it settles to the bottom. For many species, experienced fishermen justifiably insist on fresh baits. Not so, with porgies. I remember fishing for predators one day, while other people were catching porgies at a fast clip. Someone was kind enough to give me the remains of a mangled sandworm, and within 15 minutes, I caught 5 porgies—on the same worm! Save those pieces when you run out.

It is best to fish for porgies with a single rod, although many shore casters (I, included) generally like to increase their catches, by working with several rods set in sand spikes. When fishing for porgies, however, this is wasteful because an unattended rod will probably be stripped of its bait before long. Make your cast, and hold onto your rod. As soon as you feel those telltale jabs at the other end, set the hook quickly with a short life of the rod. Thereafter, you can play the fish as long as you like—for porgies, though hard fighters, rarely throw a hook.

On the Sound, porgies generally congregate near rocks or over mussel beds, although I have also taken them on sand and gravel bottom. Larger fish are usually off the open beaches; smaller fish are in the harbors. Porgies vary in size, from 1/2 lb. sand porgies, to 1 lb. bay porgies, to humpbacks over 1½ lbs. In the eastern bays, the terrain varies even more; I have taken porgies from back-bay inlets and creek mouths, as well as from town docks, bridges, open beaches, and jetties. In July and August, porgies are so numerous throughout these areas that you will find them almost any place you can throw out a line. Some excellent places on the Sound are located at Crab Meadow Beach, Miller Place, Sound Beach, Rocky Pt., Shoreham, Herod Pt., Wildwood State Park, and Orient Pt. On Peconic Bay's south side, porgy fishing extends from the north side of the Shinnecock Canal to North Haven, with notable stops in-between, at Sebonac Neck, Towd Pt., Rose's Grove, and Jessup's Neck. Farther east and into Gardiner's Bay, Cedar Pt., Sag Harbor's dock and bridge, the jetties leading to Three Mile Harbor at Maidstone Beach, Hog Creek Pt., Accabonac Harbor, and Louse Pt., all hold concentrations of porgies. As does the north side of these bays, at the Greenport docks and the jetty to the east, and the south side of Orient Pt. State Park. This list merely scratches the surface of potential porgy spots in the summer.

Of course, fishing at these places requires different methods. For example, when fishing on the Sound, I usually look for exposed rocks in the water, within casting distance, or for the ripples that are created by submerged rocks. I try to cast near them and let the rig settle to the bottom. If this does not produce within 20 minutes, I move to another group of rocks, sometimes fishing the ''blank'' areas between them. At times, I will resort to a sinker that is slightly lighter than the one that holds bottom. This causes the sinker to roll along the bottom and simulates a slow drift. More territory is covered, and the porgies sometimes prefer a slowly moving bait to one that is still.

On the other hand, when fishing at a narrow inlet, where a creek enters a bay, I usually begin at the inlet's entrance to the bay, and then work my way back. Chumming with crushed mussels or clams, broken shells on the beach, or even sand, sometimes draws the porgies to the baited rig in narrow passageways. Chumming is also effective when fishing from a pier or a bridge on the outgoing tide. At a fast channel, I prefer the area where the channel meets the bay; the water slows down here and stirs the bottom, drawing porgies nearby. Although porgies are not difficult to catch, each place has its peculiar design, and exploring it thoroughly will lead to a greater catch.

Like most bottom fish, porgies will be active primarily around a tidal change, from about 2 hours before to an hour after the slack. The bottom is torn loose at this time, and porgies feed on small bait caught in the current. But if you couple this with the low light of dawn, when water temperatures are cooler, you will undoubtedly catch more porgies. After that, you can concentrate on catching a tan.

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BACK BEFORE BREAKFAST

by Andy Regina

I was awakened shortly before my alarm was set to go off at 2:30 a.m., by a clap of thunder and a flash of lightning, followed by a driving rain that rattled the bedroom windows. As my wife and I hurriedly closed windows that had been opened wide against the heat, I cursed the downpour that had already created floods in the streets below. The evening before there had also been such a storm, but that had ended at about nine o'clock and I went to sleep fairly certain that my appointment was still safe. Naturally, I'd never dream of calling my partner to cancel our plans; he's as stubborn as I am, because he did not call me either. I guess we were both overly optimistic. The weather reports predicted lousy weather for Sunday, but you know that weatherman. That guy has ruined more days for us than is believable, either causing us to cancel out on what later proved to be a beautiful day, or getting us soaked on what otherwise was supposed to be "fair and sunny!" Now we don't bother to pay him too much mind any more, preferring to take our chances on luck rather than an educated guess, and so far we have thrown more sevens than snake-eyes.

Looking out that window at the storm told me it was snake-eyes for sure, so I told my wife to shut the light and go back to sleep. There I joined her, certain that my partner wasn't crazy enough to keep our 3AM appointment. When his car horn woke me fifteen minutes later I knew he WAS crazier than I was! I called down that I'd be ready in five minutes, scrambled into my clothes, grabbed my rod and my camera, and was out the door and down the stairs before Eileen could figure out which of us was the bigger idiot—Joe or me! The rain had by now slackened to a steady downpour and the wind had abated to a gale, but the thunder was a distant rumble and the lightning far-off flashes, so we both knew that it was getting nice out!

Driving east on the Long Island Expressway, the rain actually did slacken off by the time we got to our exit, turning into a fine drizzle as we tooled along 110 through Huntington to Knutsen's Marina, where we found a lot of other idiots getting aboard Captain Don Constantin's "Ever Ready." As the captain came aboard ship the rain stopped and the wind died down completely, and as we availed ourselves of a complimentary cup of coffee we got the feeling that it was going to be a good day after all.

Captain Don helps young John untangle Al Mezzo's bluefish from the landing net.

Overhead, a pale crescent moon peeked out from behind low-scudding clouds and the north star shone bright and clear off our port bow, presaging a fair day ahead. As we rigged up, Captain Don said that we would make some early drifts in the rips off Eaton's Neck before daylight, for striped bass. Don went on to explain the various techniques of diamond jig fishing to those unfamiliar with the procedures, and I refreshed my memory as past experiences flashed through my mind.

The diamond jig is truly a versatile tool, but calls for different techniques for different fish to ensure productive results. Jigging diamonds up and down at mid-depths works great for mackerel and doing the same thing smack on the bottom is good for catching a host of bottom feeders, such as cod, whiting, porgies, fluke, and even blackfish at times. Speed-squidding up from the bottom scores on bluefish and pollack, while a somewhat slower retrieve works just fine for weakfish. Striped bass like to hit just as the jig lifts off the bottom, immediately after it has touched down, or like jigs either bounced slowly along the bottom in slow lifts or retrieved very slowly, directly on the bottom.

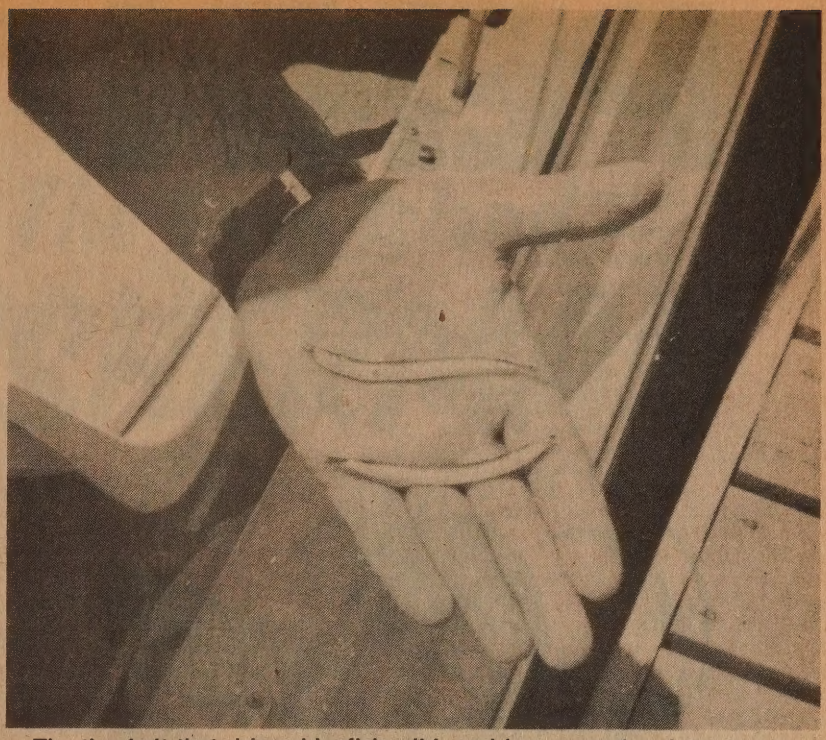
We struck out for striped bass, but stripers are funny that way. They can be stacked up in layers and not hit, yet at other times will attack like gangbusters. It all depends on a lot of things: if they are hungry or not, if the tide is right, if the moon is at the proper stage, if the forage is sand eels or something else, or if a hundred different ifs. The only thing you can ever be sure about striped bass is that nothing is ever sure about striped bass!

Anyhow, we had to leave, to be at buoy 13 at dawn. Don explained that the bluefish and weakfish had been feeding at first light, on the ledge marked by that particular buoy. Naturally, our chances of success would be enhanced if we could be in

the right place at the right time, right? We beat the sun to that buoy by a nose, and started our first drift right on schedule. The usual method is to either drift over known bluefish haunts, or to spot a school on a depth recorder and drift through them. Anchoring does not do the trick because the bluefish schools are unstable, not lingering for prolonged periods over any particular structure, but chasing bait from one spot to another. The most productive method is to spot the fish first, move in on 'em til they split, then cruise around 'til you spot fish again. Blind drifting without a recorder does not put you over fish all the time, and you could be fishing barren areas much of the time.

The reason that this method works so well is because the blues are feeding on sand eels, which is also why we use diamond jigs. Used properly, the jigs resemble sand eels darting to the surface to escape the predators below. For more dramatic results, Captain Don told us to all lower our jigs on his signal, which would appear like an entire school of bait to the feeding fish. Another reason that jigging aboard party boats outproduces that done from private craft, is the mass technique really seems to turn those bluefish on; witness the many blues coming over party boat rails as opposed to the one or two fish caught by the small craft that follow the big boys. Those little guys take advantage of the sophisticated electronic equipment most party boats now use, content to fish on the edges of the schools of fish that the party boats locate.

Most party boat skippers don't really mind the small fleets of private craft that dog their heels because the small guys are, after all, fishermen also, and really only want their own shot at some fish. It's the unsportsmanlike conduct that many boats display that turns the skippers off, the guys that crowd you out or tangle your lines, or short-drift you so that you cannot fish properly without chancing an accident. Everyone respects a gentleman, and we used to dog party boats too, but were never discourteous enough to encroach too close. Many times the "Georgia-B" was waved in by a party boat skipper, when the blues were closer to home, back in the western end of the Sound. It's a sad state of affairs when sport fishermen forget that the key word to our mutual love is "sport," which should reflect in our manners as well as in our fishing.



The tiny bait that drives bluefish wild, and has engendered the use of speed-squidding techniques with diamond jigs.

Back on the "Ever Ready," our very first drift failed to net any fish at all, so we ran back to our starting point and resumed another drift that would carry us over that same structure, that ledge that held lots of fish feeding on sand eels, all clearly etched on the paper of our graph recorder by the moving stylus. Sure enough, our second drift produced fish from the very first drop, as first one lucky angler connected, then another, then yet another again, until it was instant pandemonium aboard as rods bowed to bulldogging bluefish

(Continued on next page.)

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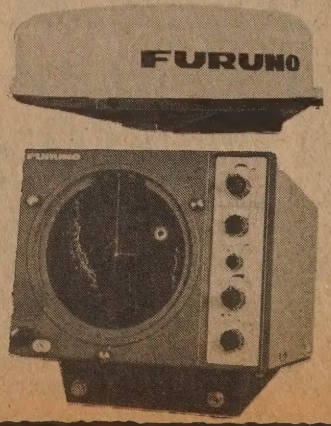

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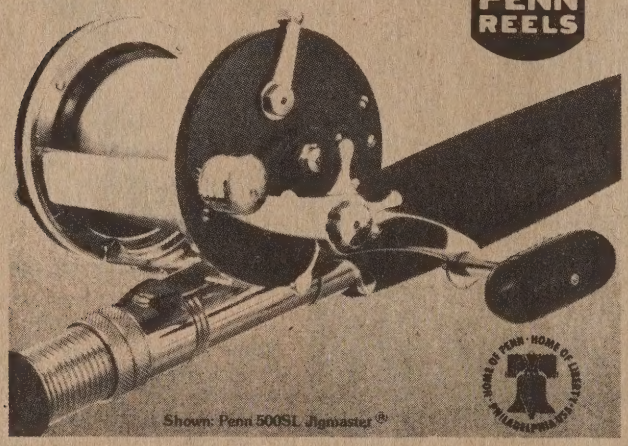

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from the bow to the stern. Mass confusion reigned supreme as ladies shrieked and guys yelled; mates and deckhands scrambled from one spot to another to help land fish or to salvage impossible tangles. Phil, our first mate, seemed to be everywhere at once, gaffing a big bluefish or netting a smaller one, re-tying broken-off jigs, or unsnarling tangled backlashes. His young assistant, John Collins, was kept just as busy on his side of the boat. Overseeing it all, and hopping down from his perch on the flying bridge to pitch in and help out also, was Capt. Don, who not only seemed to have eight arms and a dozen eyes, but added his vocal encouragement to everyone aboard as well, crew and passengers alike.

We went crazy for about fifteen or twenty minutes, although it seemed like a lifetime, until the fish either left or we drifted past them, then it was "lines up" and a repeat performance all over again. It was difficult for me to stop fishing when the action was still hot and heavy, but one of the responsibilities of a fishing writer is to try to take some photos of the action, and if I at any time consider myself a writer, then I guess I gotta play like the big boys do, and do it by the book! Now my camera replaced my fishing rod as I clicked away, not knowing which way to turn first and trying not to miss any of the action, which was physically impossible because things were popping all over the joint! Ducking flying fish and flying diamond jigs, and side-stepping the gaff and jumping over the net handle, I managed to get a few shots in focus as it took no time at all to finish a roll of film. In fact, I was so caught up in the excitement that I ran out of film without realizing it and actually broke the film off inside the camera as I tried to advance the film for one more action shot, necessitating a trip to the camera shop to salvage my precious photos.

But it was all worth it, and as we headed back to port at the end of our four hour trip, it seemed like it had been twice as long as that to me. I had met a wonderful bunch of people and shared in a great sport with them, and although we were all strangers when we left, we now were all friends. To my embarrassment, Captain Don proudly announced that I had been aboard that morning, building me up into some famous guy I knew I wasn't, but I was genuinely impressed when many of the departing passengers stopped to tell me how much they enjoyed reading "The Long Island Fisherman," and flattered that many of them actually said that they enjoyed my articles. That made the trip home seem shorter, and the hour westward flew by, punctuated only by two quick stops, one for the Sunday paper and the other for a dozen fresh donuts. I would, after all, be keeping a promise made in jest to my wife as I departed in that early-morning storm. I most definitely would be back before breakfast!

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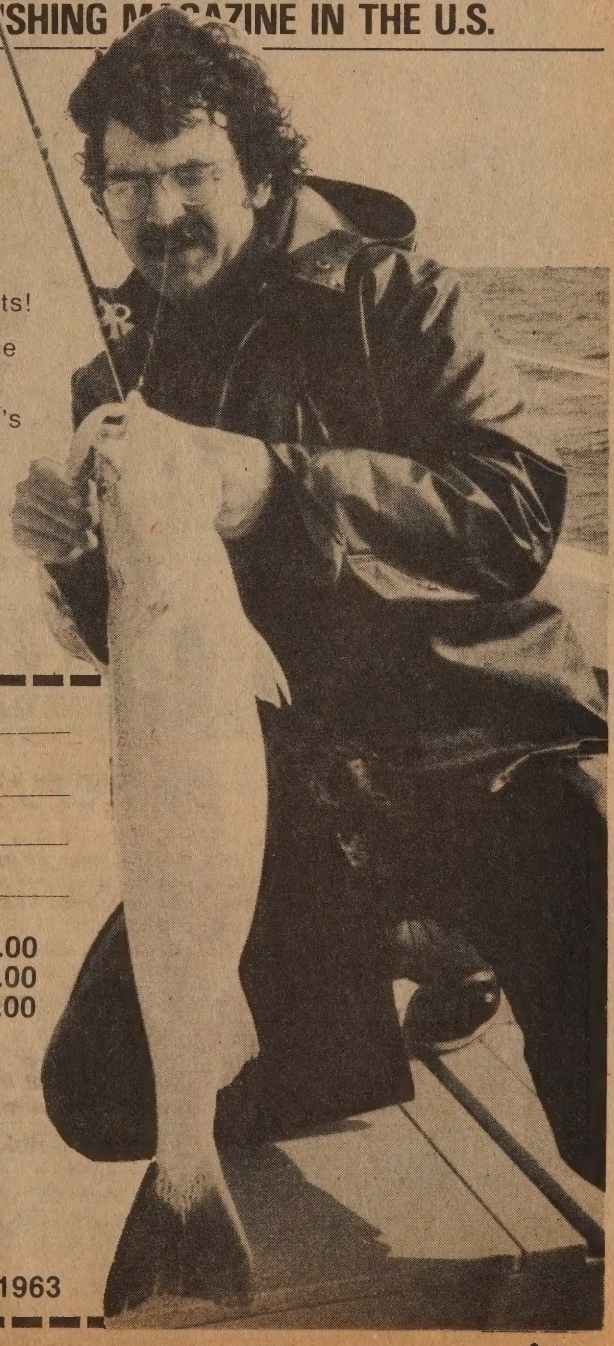

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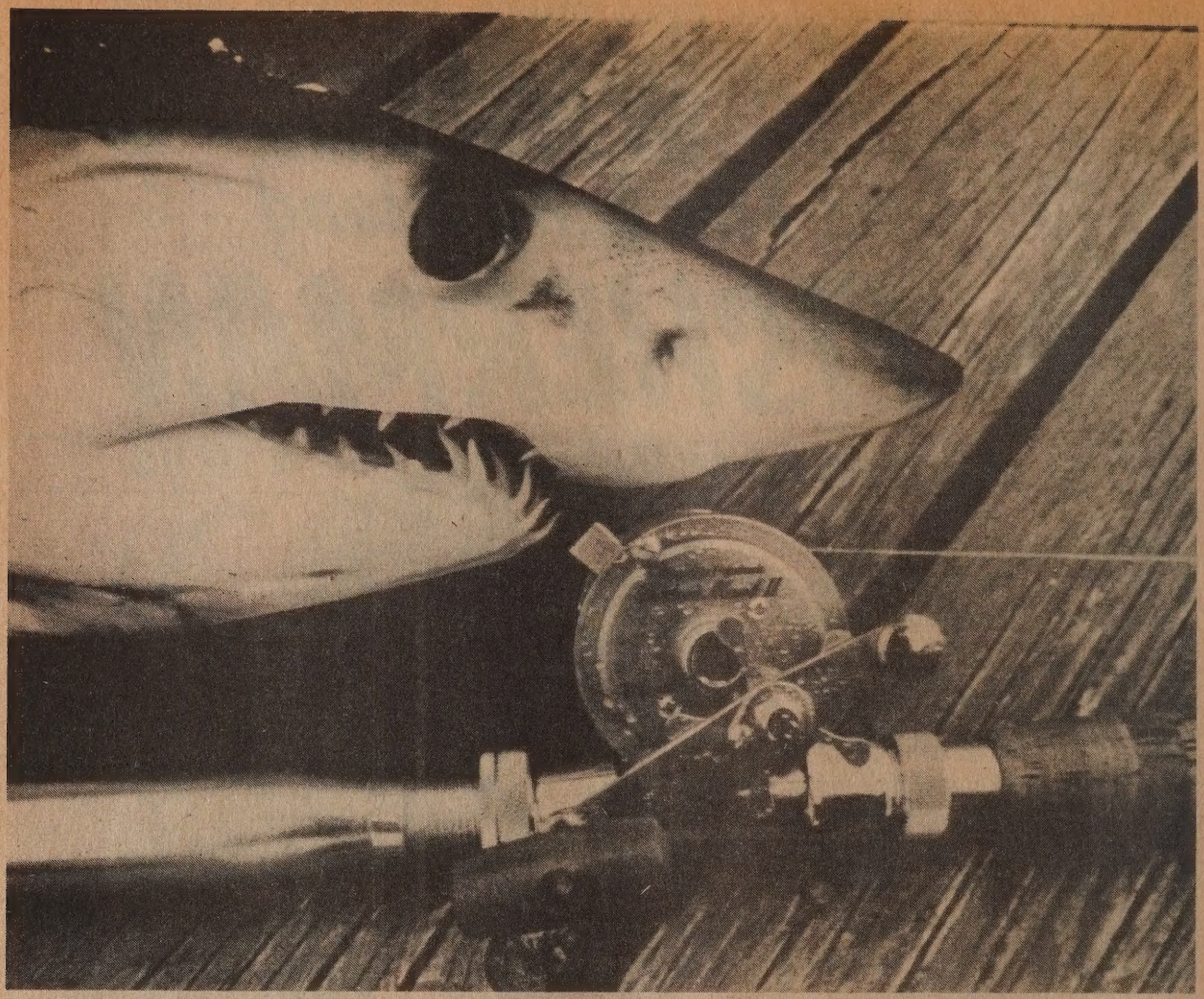

ZERO IN ON MAKOS

by Ferd DiPalma

Since "Jaws," the general public has had several misconceptions about sharks, not the least of which is the impression that shark fishermen are a breed apart. They visualize a group of "crazies" trying to "iron" or harpoon half ton monsters. They imagine super-sports trying to fight six or seven hundred pound man-eaters on 130 lb. test tackle using huge reels the size of quarter barrel beer kegs.

While there may be some "shark hunters" in the highly romanticized tradition of the movies or TV the fact is that the majority of fishermen pursue the sport with tackle that averages about in the 50 lb. class, moving down to 30 or up to 80 as the season's situation unfolds.

What most shark fishermen want are makos. And with good reason! The mako shark, **Isurus oxyrhinchus** is the real game fish among the plenitude of shark species. This exciting specimen is, first of all, a close relative of the great white shark. The mako, when hooked on medium weight gear can make a spectacular fight of it leaping several feet above the surface of the sea. This great predator has a wicked looking set of inwardly curving teeth which, with little trouble or expense, makes an interesting wall mount. And last of all the mako shark has firm clean white flesh that is highly prized and is esteemed as a real gustatory treat. What could be bad when the mako's own diet includes the highly regarded swordfish as an important part of his bill of fare?

And so, while shark fishing in general has grown rapidly during the past decade, mako fishing in particular has grown even more rapidly. Makos do reach monster proportions, 600 or 700 lbs., but the fact remains that the vast majority encountered will weigh less than 250 lbs. This is still a formidable fish and warrants a great deal of respect but 50 or 80 lb. test tackle is sufficient to subdue the raunchiest specimens in that class.

When a group of anglers set up a chum slick it is not known what species of shark are going to show up on the particular day. But mako seekers can help to narrow the odds by moving some 25 to 40 miles offshore and locating a belt of water that has heated up to the 60 to 70 degree level. This usually occurs in July in temperate zones but other oceanic species also abound off the shores of the middle Atlantic states at that time. Among these, the beauti-

fully colored blue shark, the dusky, and the vicious hammerhead are the most frequently encountered. Long-tailed threshers and oversized tigers are also in evidence. These specimens are taken to dock occasionally but the majority are usually cut off—some after first having been brought close enough to the boat to be tagged. So it is that the mako's own superior attributes are the very things that lead to his undoing.

These superb predators of the open ocean have come down to the present time from the dark mesozoic seas of some 200 million years ago. Fossilized teeth dating from those and even more ancient ancestral seas indicate that these beasts have survived to the present in substantially the same form. For the anglers who encounter them, their surging fight, their twisting leaps, their gnashing teeth, is a look into the evolutionary past.

Mako sharks can be taken by trolling. But perhaps ninety percent of the catches are made from drifting vessels spreading a chum slick that eventually lays a broad and deep band of oily film that extends a mile, two miles or more away from the boat. Any migrating mako, intercepting that slick from a couple of miles off is certain to move toward the direction of the baited hooks. All his senses impel him onward, for this is an eating machine that requires lots of nourishment.

An easy way to establish a chum slick is to remove the cover of a five gallon bucket of frozen chum, pierce the bucket in a dozen or so places and suspend the entire package from the bow in a large net. The movement of the water together with its warming effect will melt the ground mixture of menhaden, butterfish and other fish scraps fast enough to form a good slick.

Our gear consists of two, 8 ft. long "shark sticks" custom made and mounted with Penn International reels. However, any good quality production rod calibrated for 50 lb. test line will serve as well. The Daiwa 900 Sea Line reels filled with 50 or 80 lb. test line are also okay. A word of caution. Fifty pound test line is about as far as we care to go with monofilament. If we do go to the 80 lb. line we will use dacron. Hooks must be strong and of good quality. We find that the Mustad forged tuna hooks in the 12-0 size have fine penetration and excellent holding power.

When the chum slick begins to form it is also time to start chunking. Three or four inch sized chunks of cut bait—mackerel, bluefish, mossbunker—the like, are tossed into the slick, a handful at a time at frequent intervals.

We usually set out two, occasionally three, rods. Two of the sticks will be baited with whole rigged mackerel. The third with a combination mackerel and mossbunker strip baits. These will be set out at 30, 50 and 75 yards into the slick and suspended at depths of 15, 30 and 45 feet.

Aside from its reputation as a super game fish, makos like this one will provide a freezer full of delicious steaks.

A red, yellow and green toy balloon marks the proximity of each baited hook as it drifts into the lengthening slick which hopefully is opening up a path for cruising sharks.

On each rig the last 30 ft. of line has been doubled using the Bimini twist; 15 ft. of #14 steel wire is sufficient for use as a leader. This wire is itself separated into two sections of 5 and 10 ft. The connections made were all attached via haywire twists to 200 lb. test black Sampo barrel swivels.

Careful preparation pays off. When the gear holds up you will not only hook makos, you will beat them. On one trip the crew of Sea Deuce brought in four to a high of almost two hundred pounds. This is not in the monster class but any 7 ft. long mako shark armed with those formidable teeth presents a potential hazard and must be handled...strike that!... ...treated with care. A little more girth and that same shark, with no increase in length could be close to the three hundred pound mark.

Any anglers serious about tangling with these great fish would be well advised to take a trip or two with the pros. There are several charter skippers who specialize in "sharking" and the investment in sport and knowledge is well worth the price. This type fishing is not a one-man proposition. The guy who cranks the reel gets nowhere without a man who knows what to do when the wire comes up. And the first time you try to set the point of a flying gaff into the hide of a mako it is hard to believe the toughness of the skin.

So read all you can. Take a trip with the professionals. Then go out on your own!

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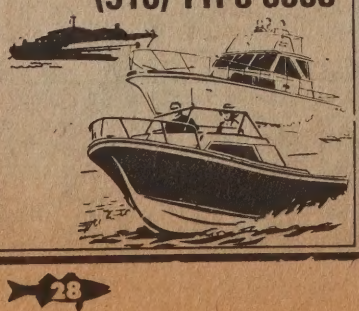


AREA PROFILE:

REYNOLDS

Part Five — b

Back when I was a boy, there was one type of fishing that Gus and Tony did that always fascinated me. That was casting artificials. Gus was **the guy** when it came to artificials; especially bucktails. The weights he used never exceeded a half-ounce, and what held true then applies now. And as far as color is concerned: white is the color on clear days and nights, and yellow when the sky is overcast.

One night when we were out drifting for bass, a schoolie broke water a few feet ahead of us. Gus was in and out of the cabin, in a flash, and a second later, a bucktail landed in the dissipating circle made by the fish. I watched as rod, reel, and hands worked as one unit and within a few turns of the handle the fish was on. "The secret to working a bucktail," Tony always said, "was in the wrist." He explained that the rod should be held straight out, pointed directly at the lure, at about nine o'clock. A flick of the wrist brought the rod tip to around eleven o'clock. A steady retrieve was maintained at all times.

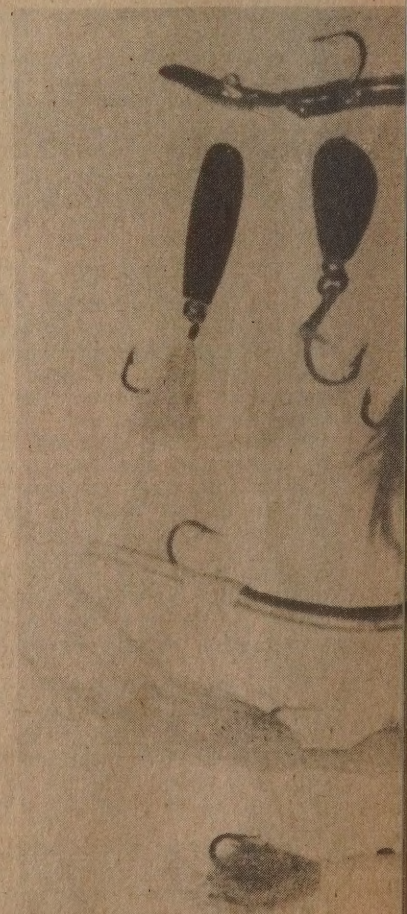
Many a nighttime trip was started with some bucktail casting at dusk. If we had an outgoing tide, Gus would set up our drift parallel to the pilings. As we drifted, Tony and Gus would cast with deadly accuracy. The bucktails would just kiss the poles and drop straight down. Often a fish would strike before they even started to retrieve!

I had taken a number of bass baitfishing, but it was quite a few trips before I took my first fish on a bucktail. I remember it distinctly...it was by the old pilings adjacent to the hole, between buoys 3 and 5.

One problem I had when I first started using bucktails, and still, at times, have today is retrieving too fast. Well that night I found the speed and I was also shown the prime locations. I still fish these locations to this day. I have already mentioned the bulkhead area from the Atlantic Beach Bridge to the Long Beach High School. The marsh side, though sometimes weedy, is also very productive. However, perhaps the most consistently productive area is beneath the Atlantic Beach Bridge itself.

Our casts were always uptide, and once again, the bucktails were placed as close to the supports as possible. To work this area to best advantage, let the lure drop to the bottom and then start your retrieve by making it jump off the bottom. Keep the lure jumping and be ready, since most strikes occur as the lure is dropping back. All the while, be sure to maintain a steady retrieve.

Of course, if your casting arm is bothering you, you can either bounce bucktails on the bottom or jig them in the hole. As I have said before, 1/2 oz. bucktails are the maximum weight when casting, and this also holds true for drifting them. When drifting bucktails, I like to sweeten them with some kind of strip bait. Squid, small eelskins rigged on leadheads, strips of fresh dead eels, and bunker have all worked well. When casting, I fish the bucktails plain, without any dressing. The only variation in weights is when I am jigging, then I use a 1¼ oz. bucktail and those l



Alou eel, Kendon block Tins, Hopk assorted bucktails used for weaks

CHANNEL

David Curti

ways sweeten.

One of the first plugs I ever used in ıe channel was a 4½'' Pflueger lustang. One dawn, we decided to ug our way home. It was one of ıose rare occasions when the last two ours of incoming tide corresponded ith dawn.

We were working the marsh banks etween Bannister Creek and Cedar- ırst Yacht Club. I tied on the ustang, to some strange looks from us. On the third cast, a bass rose, ıd Gus asked me where I got it. The llowing trip, Gus surprised me with Pflueger Ballerina. It had no built-in tion and Gus, being the master with e bucktail, preferred the Ballerinas ıd Zara Spooks.

His retrieval was a well choreo- aphed dance. He would twitch his wrist and reel with intermittent long sweeps of the rod, first to the right, then to the left and straight out. The 52M Mirr-o-Lure is also very effective when fished in this manner.

One group of lures that have always proved effective in this area for me are the Red-Fins, Rebels and Rapalas. In my opinion, the 4½'' size is the best. Green, black and gold backs are the colors that produce best for me.

I prefer to cast uptide, the same as in bucktailing, and to let the boat drift to the lure so that it is swept along with the current. When the lure first hits water, I let it remain at rest for awhile, until the circles dissipate. Then I will twitch the lure once or twice before I start a very slow retrieve. The retrieve should be just fast enough to make the lure swim. Be sure to work the lure all the way to the boat. Many times a fish will follow the lure all the way in and won't strike until just before it leaves the water.

Always try to place the lure as close to the marsh banks as possible. At times, I have put the lure on the bank and let it fall gently into the water.

I prefer floating lures for two reasons, although sinkers take their share of fish. This is especially true of the Rebels. One reason is purely an aesthetic one: I love to watch a fish take a surface plug. The spectacular assault is half the fun of landing it.

The second reason is much more practical: sea weed. The shallow waters along the banks often hide a layer of sea weed about a foot or two down. This is especially true around Duck Point. Fishing a sinking plug or a bucktail is all but impossible at times. The pilings are a lot easier to work with sinking plugs and I generally aim in on them on my second drift, using Long Beach High School as the border.

In past years, the resurgence of the weakfish has filled a large gap made by the decline in the bass population. The light tackle employed in this type of fishing enhances the sport. Examples of these are one handed spinning rods and reels of comparable size loaded with between eight and twelve pound test line. It is also the perfect occasion for baitcasting equipment and, quite often this gives you the extra backbone to whip a large fish such as the chopper blues that periodically raid the channel.

Well that is Reynolds Channel as I know it. Give it a try and remember not to throw your trash overboard.

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HALF A SLICE

by Herb Buch

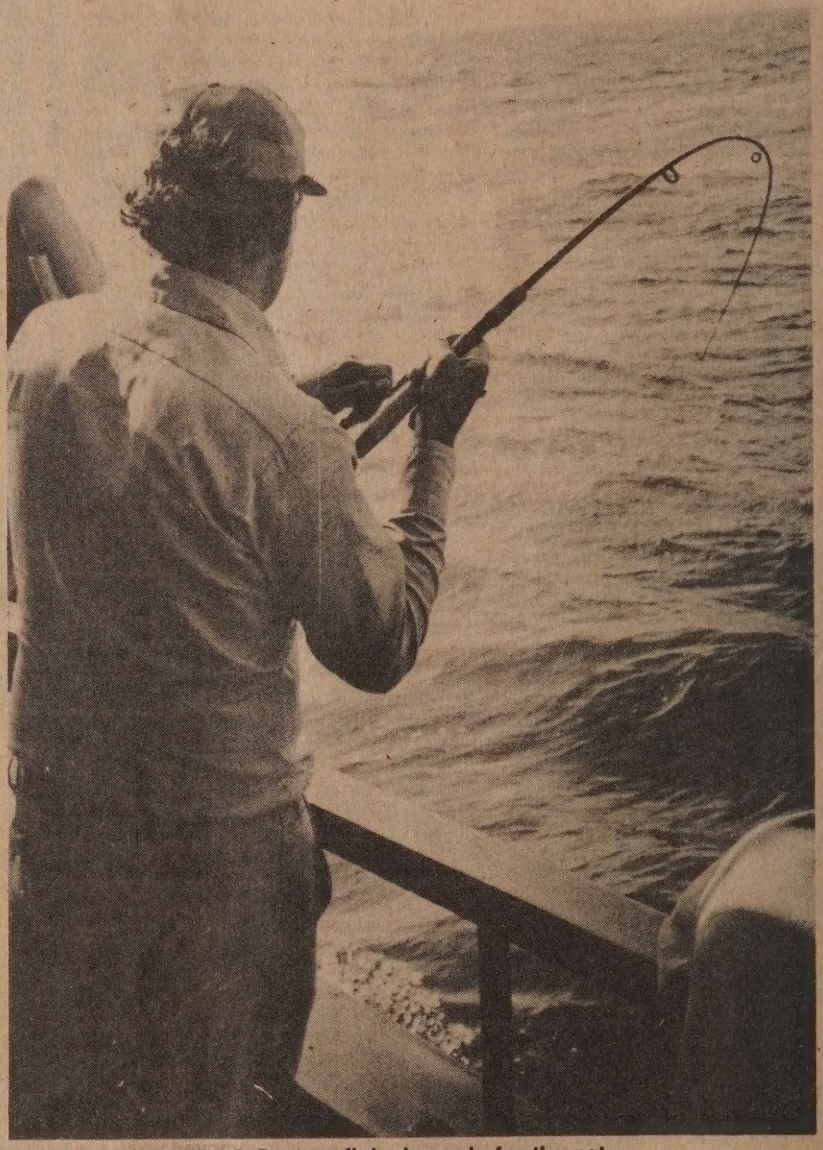
There are many reasons for the increasing number of open boats that are sailing on half-day schedules. Some people have responsibilities which make it difficult to get away for a full day trip. Others have preferences for early morning or late afternoon fishing, or prefer to fish a particular tide. Captains see a chance to increase income by scheduling an evening trip after a full day. Also, there are many people who are feeling the pinch of inflation, and who welcome a chance to go fishing at a reduced fare, even though it means fewer hours on the water.

For those reasons and others, you will find half day fluke boats available wherever the fishing grounds are close enough to port to allow for productive trips. Sheepshead Bay, Freeport, Captree and Montauk, are among the ports that offer this service. By checking the advertisements in The Fisherman you can choose a time and place to suit your needs.

Fluke are a popular fish wherever they are found. They are not the greatest fighters, but do put up a respectable scrap on light tackle. Additionally, they produce fillets that are among the best to be had. It takes knowledge and a good fishing day to catch a lot of fluke, but anyone can luck into a few fish on a party boat, even with no prior experience.

Because of the limited time at sea, many people take such trips on the spur of the moment. Rental tackle is available on some boats, while others supply it free. The kind of tackle must vary with the location that is being fished. Regular boat outfits will be needed to fish the deep fast waters at Montauk, while light freshwater spin sticks will be adequate for most days out of Freeport or Captree. Tackle for Sheepshead Bay will likely be somewhere in-between, depending upon where the fish are located. A light boat rod mounting a conventional reel loaded with twenty pound mono will generally suffice. If you are new to the sport, the proper sinkers and hooks will be available on the boat. Medium weight spinning tackle may also be used, if you do not need to use heavy sinkers.

Fluke fishing is generally done from a drifting boat, therefore there is no advantage to a position at the stern of the vessel. Choose a place along either side of the boat. The preferred side would be the one from which your line would drift away from the boat instead of going under it. The captain will usually alternate the position of the sides as he drifts so that all of the passengers get a chance at the most comfortable position. You can catch fish just as well with your line under the boat as you can from the other side, however, your chances of catching someone's rig under the boat are increased. Do not release too much line when you are drifting under the boat. If you run into trouble, the mates are generally ready and willing to assist you.



A Captree fluke is ready for the net.

Fluke are active, predatory, bottom fish. They will chase and grab small fishes that move past their position on the bottom. The boats will supply some form of fish bait, usually live killies or dead strips of fish. In order to make them look natural, I prefer a small hook with a standard length shank. Something like a size one or two sproat on a three foot leader of twenty pound mono is good. The small relatively light hook allows the bait to act more naturally as it moves past the fish. Fluke usually grab it by

the tail, and hang on for a minute or so before attempting to swallow it. Keep your reel in free spool with a finger on the line. If you feel a touch or the line stops slightly, release the line instantly and allow at least twenty or thirty feet of line to come off the spool. At that point, put the reel into gear and lift the rod gently. If you feel extra weight, you can sock it to him. If you miss, try letting out some more line, sometimes the fish will return to the bait several times. When you are into a fish, reel it slowly to the boat, and never lift it even partly out of the water. When you have it near the top, call for the net, and let the mate bring the fish into the boat. Fluke have some very hard parts to their mouths, and the hook is often only holding by the tip of the point. If you lift his head out of the water, he will shake violently, and may throw the hook. If you missed him or lost him, reel in and replace your bait.

There are many fancy fluke rigs on the market. Some feature single or double spinners, and some have hooks arranged in tandem. Unless the mates on the boat recommend them, stick to a single hook rig used with the dropback technique which I have described. There are times when special rigs are deadly, but most of the old-timers that I have observed are catching their fish on single hook rigs used without any hardware. When you bait your hook, insert the point into the bait only one time so that the bait trails behind the hook as you drift. When fastening a dead minnow to the bar, you can insert it into one eye and out the other, or up from the bottom of the jaw through the lips or skull. Live minnows are hooked through the lips from the bottom up or the point is slid through the mouth and out of one gill without penetrating any flesh. Either of these methods will allow a live bait to swim actively for a considerable time. Correctly cut strips of fish or squid are wider on one end and narrower at the other. Hooked once at the wide end, the narrow tail will flutter naturally in the water as the boat moves. The feeding habits of all fish change, therefore it is good procedure to carry and try at least two kinds of bait. Many boats do this, but there is nothing to stop you from supplementing the boat's offerings if they only supply one type of bait.

Although fluke are the primary objective of these half-day boats, there are many other fish that may be taken on the same rigs. Sea robins are the most common of the many possible competitors for your bait. They bite harder than fluke, and require no dropback. Most people throw them back, but they are good to eat, and you will see some people keep all that they catch. Sea bass of small and medium size may also roam the same areas and are considered by many to be more desirable on the table than fluke.

From time to time the catch will include some bluefish or weakfish. Both can be surprisingly large, and the fish will never be taken without a tough fight. Last summer on an afternoon trip out of Captree, a youngster of about twelve, hooked a bluefish in the five pound class. When the mate netted the fish, he and his younger brother were the proudest anglers on the boat. He not only caught the only bluefish, but it was the biggest fish on the boat. Their father was one satisfied, happy parent, and I am sure that they will always remember that particular trip with great pleasure.

Most of the fluke that are caught range from about fourteen to eighteen inches long. However there are times when there are many shorts around. A fluke that is less than fourteen inches long may not be legally possessed, therefore it is wise to let one of the mates unhook it and return it to the water so that it may grow up. Big fluke are an everyday occurrence, but not for every fisherman or every boat. As in all forms of fishing there are big fluke specialists who use large hooks and bring their own special baits. If you are new at the sport, stick to the more abundant average sized fish until you gain some experience.

One thing you can do to improve your chances of catching fish is to protect the freshness of your bait. Never let bait sit in the sun. Always keep bait on ice or at least in the shade, covered by a wet rag. If live killies are the bait, choose an active one and hook it carefully so as not to lessen it activity. The more active it remains, the better it will work to attract fish. When you catch fish, you should also take precautions against spoilage. One method is to carry a burlap sack, wet it, and keep your fish in that. The best place to keep your bait, and to carry home your fish.

Half day fluke boats are ideal for all of the people that I mentioned at the beginning of the article plus children, women, and occasional anglers who are not sure of their sea legs. On many of the boats, they will not only rig you up, but also bait your hook, remove fish, and if you wish, for a modest fee, clean or fillet your catch. Service like that is the reason that certain captains always draw a good crowd.

Although I love to fish at any time, an afternoon fluke trip is my idea of the best way to end a typical summer day. No matter how hot and humid it is, as soon as the boat leaves the dock, a breeze picks up and the air feels cooler. Within a half hour you are rigged and baited and hardly able to wait to begin fishing. At the whistle's toot, you can drop your rig to the bottom and from there on, all of the cares of the day are gone. The air is cool and clean, the water is usually cal and the sun is low. I feel so thoroughly relaxed, and comfortable that I do not even care about how man fish I catch. What a beautiful way to end a day.

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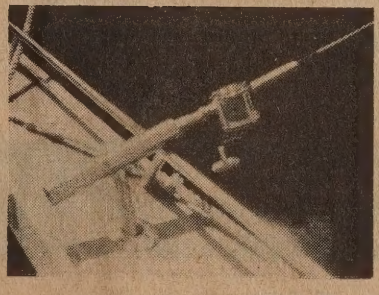

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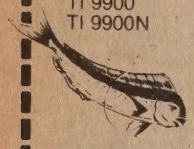

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Montauk Report

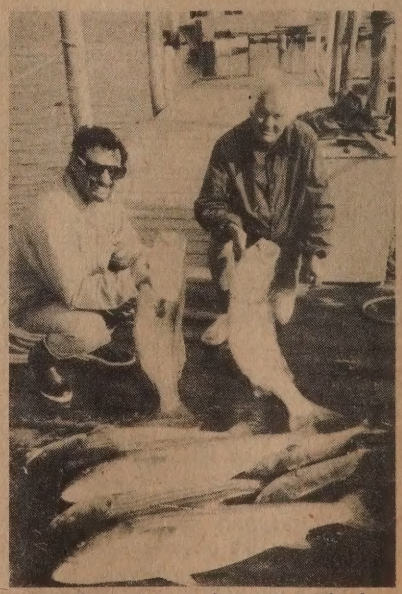
by Stu Miller

The **Viking Fleet** reports that the **Starship** just came back with an excellent catch of mostly cod and haddock from the weekend George's Bank trip. The catch included a 35 lb. halibut. The **Viking Star** has been doing very well on cod at Cox's Ledge says Steve Forsberg with fish from 8 to 20 lbs. Tuesday saw one angler deck 19 cod himself. The **Starlight** has been having good fluking on their half-day trips. (An 11 lb. fluke was caught this week aboard the open boat Capt Willie). The **Starlight** is switching to porgies this week which are moving in strong. The night bluefishing trips have been very good with medium sized jumbo blues.

Capt Jack Passi on the charter boat **Windy** called to report his charters are getting plenty of bluefish working south of Block. Jack says the fish have apparently settled in for the season. 87 choppers in the 10 to 12 lb. class were umbrellaed Saturday, total weight being over 800 lbs. Tuesday night was the last night that the boat had striped bass.

Capt Frank of the charter boat **Free Spirit** tells us that Saturday's charter for tackle man John Antignano and wife Barbara, scored with 4 blue shark all taken on light tackle with one fish requiring 3 hours to whip. Sunday's sharking slowed but they still had 1 blue shark and a dozen bluefish. Frank says that he will be featuring light tackle shark trips this season for those interested.

Capt Mike of the charter boat



Al Ristori and George with 6 bass taken on Ava Jigs aboard the charter boat "Vivienne."

Montauk classifies the sharking as supurb, with Friday's trip resulting in plenty of blue shark, dusky and makos. The big fish of the week was on Friday, a 264 lb. mako. Mike says it's been a great season so far with all charters scoring.

Capt Gene Kelly of the charter boat **Kellyboat** reports that he had 2 shark trips this week. They resulted in a 210 lb. blue shark plus a 281 lb. blue shark again. Gene says a half dozen shark of the blue and brown variety broke off. He says the offshore trips to the canyon are something to behold and anyone interested should give him a call. See ad for details.

Henry at **Star Island Yacht Club** called to say that the week saw a bonanza of tuna, mako, blue shark and a large variety of other species. Large mako of the week was a 357 lb. beast taken aboard the Elaine IV by Dr. Larry Duca. Capt James Hunt was at the wheel. A total of 10 large tuna up to 305 lbs. were also taken. The first giant tuna was caught in Montauk on Friday aboard the private boat Tender Foot with Dr. Louis Fryman on the rod. He also had 5 tuna to 235 lbs. Five mako and lots of yellowfin and albacore were hooked, The charter boat **King Wayne** also got his first tuna at the Point along with a catch of weakfish. Porgies and flounder were also brought in, and Henry says Montauk has plenty of fresh bait.

Capt Fritz Hubner of the charter boat **Mistress Too** reports plenty of mako, brown, dusky and blue shark for charters all week, working the Butterfish Hole area. Some giant tuna also being caught not far off the Point. Blues in heavy 9 miles south of the Point, fish 8 to 15 pounders on wire or on jigs.

Capt Ron of the charter boat **Julie III** reports his charter for Saturday led by Bob Warfield boated 344 porgies from 1 to 3½ lbs., 1 fluke and 5 sea bass. Sunday's charter led by Dominick Felieu totaled 318 porgies from 1 to 4 lbs. All were caught at Pocketbook Ledge and the Elbow.

Capt Phil of the charter boat **Adios** had a 150 lb. mako on Friday's trip for Bob Gonzales group along with a dozen blue shark. Saturday was poor fishing the same area but Sunday's group had action all day with shark for some young anglers. Bluefishing remains good with 51 blues obliging for the Bob Maio party along with some weaks that have shown up. This was at SE Light. The weaks were at Shagwong. Phil says he has, due to sudden cancellation, Saturday through Tuesday open. He also tells of a 725 lb. giant tuna caught Sunday aboard Capt Walter Haab's Seacon in the same spot as last year's first tuna. Al Goldstein on his boat Crestliner took a rod and reel sword, some albacore and 3 bigeye tuna fishing the canyon.

Gone Fishing Marina reports that Wednesday Don Washburn and Phil Musati got 350 lb. mako 25 miles SE of the Point in 160' of water on their

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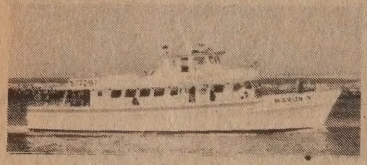

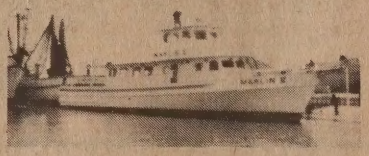

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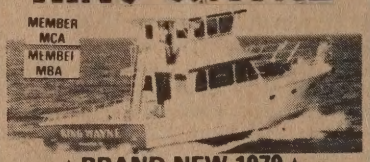

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boat Wild Turkey. Good fluke action in North Rips with Charlie Edinger scoring with an 8 pounder on Sunday on fish belly. Porgy action good at Great Eastern and nice flounder at Tobaccolot up to 5 lbs. on worms. Porgies are hitting worm and clam.

Capt Joe McBride of the charter boat **My Mate** tells us that John Delio bagged 300 lbs. of bluefish fishing south of Cartwright. Joe says he has several choice dates open for shark and tuna. See ad for details.

Charter boat **Snapshot V** called to say that Saturday's charter for Chuck Millner, Joe Geist and Joe Heffelfinger of the Woolworth Co. had a good catch with Chuck taking a 205 lb. mako and Joe scoring with a 90 lb. blue shark. They trolled up some 15 lb. blue shark on the way out also. Action was 20 miles south of the Point for the shark.

Charter boat **Dianie I** with Capt Paul DeAngelo at the wheel, on Saturday's offshore trip had a 200 lb. blue shark for the Siano party along with many smaller brown shark and blue shark which were tagged and released. Sunday's trip for Scott Gassman and Pete DAgostino fished the same area in 190' of water south of the Point taking numerous blue shark which were tagged and released. They also boated a 165 lb. mako. A football tuna was trolled on feathers on the way home.

South Shore Report

by Fred Golofaro

HAMPTON BAYS

John at **Corr's Fishing Station** said fluke fishing remained good in the area. Danny Ciccarelli, Paul Anastasiou, Gene Luciani and Bill Luciani returned to the station on Saturday with 43 fluke, all taken on killie and squid combos. They also had a triggerfish. Some bluefish are being taken in the inlet area by trollers using umbrella rigs or bucktails. Most are small. Bill Nullooly managed to find a 13 lb. chopper fishing inside the inlet Sunday AM. John added that flounder are still being taken in the Basket area and asked us to remind readers that conservation officer have been actively checking for short fluke, so pay heed to the 14" minimum size limit.

MORICHES BAY

Captain Fred of the charter boat **Sea Mist** reported taking 3 blue sharks and a mess of bluefish for Saturday's charter south of Moriches Inlet. On Sunday, a 13' thresher shark was brought aboard on 50 lb. class tackle after a four hour battle. The

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fish was estimated at 350 lbs.

John at **Sea Tuck Cove Fishing Station** in Eastport rated Saturday as only fair due to the wind but was very satisfied with Sunday's results. Fluking has been best in the buoy 43 area, where most boats have been averaging 15 keepers apiece. The largest flattie over the weekend tipped the scales at 4¾ lbs. The ratio of keepers to shorts continues to hover around the 50-50 mark. On Sunday, Brian Fogelson, Stan Fogelson and Rich Nucatola returned to the station with 19 keepers taken on

Tony Battista, Ed Mountford, and George and Bobby Eimer with the 229 lb. mako they took south of Moriches on the Sea Wife out of Tadsen's Fishing Station.

spearing and squid combos at buoy 43.

From **Tadsen's Fishing Station**, Ben relayed word that flounder fishing still remains worthwhile in the buoy 29 area on bloodworms. Fluke are plentiful, but lots of the fish must be returned as they are under size. Best bet for the summer flatfish has been the buoy 25, 26 area with either killie and squid or sand eel and squid combos accounting for most of the action. Some nice fish, 3-4 lb. class, beginning to show up in catches.

Speaking from **Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station**, Jack noted an improvement in the fluke action but added that half of the fish taken must still be returned. Best fishing has been found in the new cut on the west side of the inlet during outgoing water. Some fish also being taken at the Coast Guard Station, buoy 27 and buoy 28. Fishing the west cut on Sunday, a Mr. Berkowitz of Farmingville took a 6 lb. fluke. Both sand eels and killies have been effective baits for the summer flatfish. Still flounder in the buoy 29 area with the best fishing during the last two hours of incoming water. On Sunday, Dan Passore and his girl friend Maria Iallonardo used bloodworms to take 75 flounder. Blues from 2-4 lbs. in the inlet Saturday and Sunday mornings. Fish were up on top and some anglers took them on popping plugs.

Jim at **Skidmore's Fishing Station** told of good fluking this week south of buoy 43 to the north or south of the hole there. A lot of 3 and 4 lb. fish have begun showing up in catches in recent days. Ratio of keepers to shorts is now about 60-40 and combo baits of sand eels or spearing and squid have been accounting for the best scores. Any moving water has been productive. On Saturday, Matt and John Viol and John and Dianne Cinquegrani totalled 24 fluke including a 6.14 lber. for John, 7 blues and 2 weaks. On Sunday Dan Mahoney clicked with a 5.10 lb. fluke. Jim added that there are a good number of cocktail blues roaming the bay and there are still flounder south of buoy 39 for those interested. One boat on Sunday totalled 40 of the winter flatties.

Gary at **Silly Lily Fishing Station** spoke of a good week with the fluke despite a lot of short fish. Some larger fluke have begun making a showing and small blues and weaks have been mixed in the catches as well. On Saturday Vince and Dan DellaRocca returned with 20 keeper fluke and 2 blues. On Sunday, Bill Shelorki and three friends totalled 25 fluke up to 5½ lbs. Best fishing has been on the edge of the hole near buoy 42 and 43 with sand eel and squid combos the most effective bait. Good size flounder still available from buoys 36 to 39 on bloodworms according to Gary.

MASTIC BEACH

Harry at **Capt. Andy's Fishing Station** told of plenty of fluke to 3½ lbs. in the area, but reminded that only 1 out of every 3 or 4 fish taken are keepers. Best action has been at the bridge and buoys 25 and 26 on sand eels or spearing. Most boats manage to return with 10-15 keepers apiece. Bay blues are mixed with the fluke fro the bridge down to buoy 20. Blue claw crabs just starting to make their appearance in local areas.

SAYVILLE

From **Formato's Fishing Station**, Fred reported a catch of 2 weaks for Ed Hunter during the week. One of the fish was a 10 lber. while the other checked in at 8 lbs. Both were taken on hi-lo rigs while fluking in West Channel. Best bet for flukehas been Barrett Beach, Ocean Beach and the East Channel areas. Some nice fish beginning to blend into the catches now also said Fred. Summer run weaks of 2-4 lbs. beginning to show on the Heckscher grounds. Use squid strips or sand worms for these fish.

WEST SAYVILLE

Bill at **South Bay Fishing Station** reported plenty of action with fluke from Heckscher through to Ocean Beach. Bill noted at 60 percent of the fish are still throwbacks and added that a few weaks are mixed with the flatfish. Some small bay blues also being taken on fluke baits. For a little variety, Bill said to try the channel at

Ocean Beach for porgies and sea bass. Among those who did well over the weekend were Ron Trotta Sr. and Jr. who totalled 15 fluke and 7 sea bass using squid and sand eels at Ocean Beach on Saturday.

OAKDALE

Dave at **J&R Sport Center** also spoke of plenty of fluke but again reminded that lots of fish are shorts and must be returned. Good fishing can be had anywhere from the lighthouse area back into east channel. Small blues being trolled on umbrella rigs from the lighthouse to the inlet with an occasional weakfish mixed in. Blues up to 4 lbs. up on the flats in the early Am or in the evening for casters throwing small popping plugs. At the West Sayville dock, blue claw crabs and some blowfish starting to take hold for the pier crowd. As for the freshwater scene, Dave said things have been pretty quiet all week long.

EAST ISLIP

At **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** where Peppy's daughter Lisa was holding down the fort, we learned that 8-yr. old George Dale took a pair of fluke and a small bluefish fishing near Kismet on the weekend. The 3 fish were enough to make the day for the young angler. Fluke fishing in general has been good although lots of shorts are making up most of the action. Blues are in the bay for pluggers and at the inlet for trollers. Sunday morning, John Maxey joined John Schauers aboard the latter's Joanie Gal for an hour of plugging on the Sexton Island flats. The novice angler managed to plug up a dozen blues in the 2-4 lb. class before the action died.

BAY SHORE

Carl at **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** reported a good flurry of action with small blues in the vicinity of the Coast Guard Station Sunday morning. The choppers surprised a number of fluke anglers who wound up taking more blues than fluke. Apparently the fish were also there on Saturday when Pete Bilella and Len Musso Jr. and Sr. aboard the Nat Pat took 11 blues to 3 lbs. on spearing and squid. Len Caruso , Mike Talese and Lucille Dowd had 3 nice fluke along with 4 bluefish. Eleven year old Jeff Payne singlehandledly accounted for six fluke in West Channel on Sunday. He used sand eels. Carl relayed the results of the Bay Shore Mako Tournament which ran Saturday and Sunday. In the mako division, 1st place was nailed down by Ron Devito who had a 289 lber. Ed Wills took 2nd with a 252 lber. while Tony Angello placed 3rd with a 230 lber. Other sharks getting recognition were a 424 lb. thresher taken by Tom Iaella, 422 lb. thresher by John Dethleffen and a 420 lb. thresher taken by Bob Clancy.

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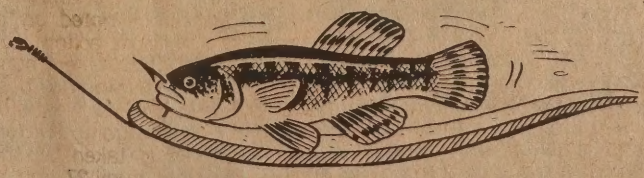

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Outstanding catch award was copped by Howie Stanfield of the Oakdale Sportsmen's Club who put away a bluefin tuna of 320 lbs. As for the club standings, perennial winner, the Oakdale Sportsmens Club once again finished on top of the heap. They totalled 2, 228 pts. The Babylon Tuna Club wound up in 2nd place with 1342 pts. while the Squadron Anglers held down 3rd with 1,156 pts. The host team of the tournament, The Bay Shore Tuna Club, held down the 4th spot with 797 pts.

Captain Neil Delanoy of the open boat **Casey Lee** spoke of decent fluke action at West Channel, East Channel Sexton Island, and Ocean Beach. A lot of shorts are being taken but a lot of 2 lb. class fish making up the catches as well. Spearing appears to have a slight edge on the bait department according to the skipper. Last of the flood and first of the ebb continues to produce the most action and Neal reminded that they have a good tide to look forward to this week.

CAPTREE

The charter boat **Lady Ann** reported fluking has been fair to good dependi on existing wind and tide conditions. The area from Sexton Island east to Ocean Beach seems to be holding the main body of fish. Some nicer sized fluke have begun showing up in the catches with some improvement noted in the ratio of keepers to shorts.

Captain Rod Westerlind of the open boat **Capt. Rod** reported that his skipper, Captain George Bartenback has been finding good fluke action at Ocean Beach, West Channel and in the State Channel. Rod noted however that while the fish seem most abundant in the latter location a larger percentage of these are under the 14'' legal minimum. Some bigger fish have begun moving off the flats and killies have started to take over from spearing in the bait department. George Hoffmann totalled 10 keepers on a recent trip and topped his catch off with a 5¾ lber.

Captain Speedy Hubert of the open boat **Speedy VI** has been running west to the Mud Hole to find enough fish to make the day worthwhile for his fares. Most of the blues taken have been in the 4-8 lb. range. And the night trips have witnessed better fishing than the day runs. Speedy said fares just picked away over the weekend with both jigs and bait each taking some fish. Saturday's night trip was good by comparison to the day fishing. Of the fluking, the **Speedy VI**has been finding some good action on morning tides in West and East Channel and also at Ocean Beach. The skipper noted that some bigger fish appeared to be moving off the flats into the deeper channels and are starting to show up in the catches.

Captain Ron Murray of the charter boat **Seabird** fished an offshore charter on Friday. The party headed by Bill Glovers returned with a great white that checked in at 60 lbs. On Saturday and Sunday the skipper spent the day inside the bay searching out fluke. He found a steady pick both days fishing from the bridge back through West Channel and Snake Hill Channel. Captain Ron also noted that the ratio of keepers to shorts has improved as well as the quality of keepers.

Charter boat **Yankee III** fished a group headed by John Muller last week. The party totalled 35 keepers fishing the lighthouse area and returned over 100 short fluke as well. In addition two 5 lb. weaks were taken on fluke baits..

Charter boat **Rendova Island** reported lots of fluke for the Tap-A-Ket Athletic Club on their weekend charter. While many short fluke were taken, plenty of keepers came aboard as well fishing in the West Channel area. The same killie and squid combos which took the fluke accounted for some weakfish and smali blues

as well .

At the **Captree Bait Station,** Noel reported that they weighed in a fluke of 8 lbs. 9 oz. for Mario Volario. To add even more significance to the catch, Mario took the doormat from the fishing pier out in front of the bait station. Noel noted that quite a few fluke are being taken off the pier but lots of the fish are shorts. Both killies and sand eels are working. Still some flounder being taken by casters working the Jones Beach piers. Small blues spread through the bay and the inlet and they are being taken by casters and trollers said Noel.

BABYLON

At **Charlie's Fishing Station** Tom described the fluking as very good but noted the abundance of shorts. Best bait has been sand eel and squid and the lighthouse, Snake Hill Channel and the State Channel have been the most productive spots. On Saturday, Mike Hardy and Roy Richter returned with 15 keepers from the State Channel at Gilgo. They had some 2 lb. sea bass along with their fluke. On Sunday, Bob McCormick fished the lighthouse area and returned with a fluke of 7 lbs. Tom made mention of a good showing of blue claws locally but added that many are still on the small side. Lots of blues from 1-4 lbs. roaming the bay.

From **Augie's Bait & Tackle** , Ski said that fluke are holding up well with a definite improvement in the ratio of keepers to shorts. Bigger fish seem to be more prevalent in Snake Hill and West Channels while the inlet and State Channel seem to be dominated by short fish. Small blues being trolled from the lighthouse to the inlet on white, red or green umbrella rigs and some of the choppers are also being taken on fluke rigs. Some porgies and sea bass near Ocean Beach and snappers starting at the town dock although they are very small.

LINDENHURST

Mike at **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** said that Ed and Vivienne Thomas and friends checked in a catch of 8 nice fluke which they made in West Channel over the weekend. On Sunday, Bruce Vitarelli, also fishing West Channel put away 5 keepers on squid and killie combos. Five year old Matthew Savarese landed his first weakfish ever fishing aboard the Maggie II. The fish took a killie drifted near the Coast Guard Station. Fishing near the Coast Guard Station on Sunday, Robert and Tony Carpenter took 4 fluke and 2 blues while Dina and Joe Marshall accounted for 6 of the choppers.

AMITYVILLE

From **George Combs Bait & Tackle,** Maria relayed word of good fluke action in Massapequa Cove, at Four Corners, Copiague Hole, Squaw

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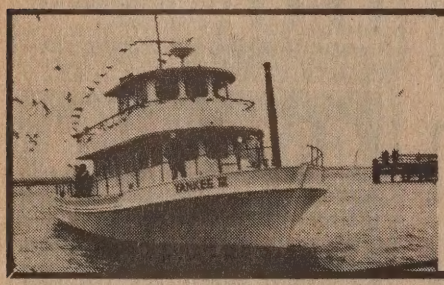

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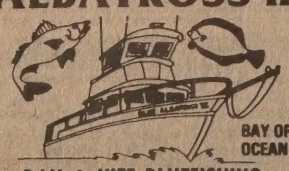

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Island, West Island and State Channel near Gilgo. She weighed in a 6 lber. on Sunday taken from the latter location. Maria noted also that while the action has been good many of the fish are still of the throwback variety. Bigger fish seem to show a preference for killie and squid combos. Small bluefish in good supply in Fire Island Inlet for umbrella rig trollers.

SEAFORD

John at **Pop's Fishing Station** said that the overall picture remains good. Flounder showed renewed life this past week as demonstrated by the catch made by "Little Al" who took 56 flounder west of the Jones Beach piers. Joe Esposito totalled 26 of the flatties fishing west of the 2nd bridge. Both anglers used worms and mussel chum. It was a good weekend for fluke according to John, with the ratio of keepers to shorts holding at 50-50. Pat Luniewski and family used killie and squid at Four Corners to take 13 fluke including an 8 lber. On Sunday John, Tom and Mark Laura culled 11 keepers out of a total of 22 fish taken in Massapequa Cove on killies and squid.

Lon at **Wanser's Bait and Tackle** said lots of fluke but lots of shorts also. Despite the preponderance of small fish some nicer fish have begun mixing in. Lon noted that the larger fish have shown a preference for killies, but spearing and sand eels have been working well also. Last Thursday, Joe Marino totalled 16 keepers fishing west of the 3rd bridge. Other spots worth giving a shot were Four Corners and Goose Creek. Small blues for casters and trollers in the inlet while bigger fish are being taken outside by trollers. Lon had a report of a good catch of blues in the 8 lb. class made at the Mud Hole Friday AM.

Sal at **Custom Tackle** relayed word of a 14.4 lb. fluke taken aboard the Happy Days by Vic Consiglio on Saturday. The big doormat was taken on a two hook feather jig at Swift Creek. Sal noted that aside from this exceptional fish, fluke have been plentiful but a large percentage of those being taken are shorts.

Captain Brian of the open boat **Chinco** spoke of good fluking during the week with a 50 percent keeper ratio. Brian has been sticking to the local channels and creeks and has been finding killie and squid combos the most effective bait. Pool fish is usually in the 3-4 lb. range. Brian did note that action on the weekend slowed somewhat due to unfavorable tide conditions and heavy boat traffic.

BELLMORE

Scott at **Merrick Tackle** knew of school tuna trolled in the Mud Hole this past week and bluefish trolled on umbrella rigs at the Cholera. In addition, a decent number of makos were taken during the week in the vicinity of the Texas Tower. Inshore,

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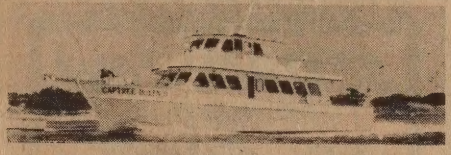

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fluking has been holding up well in Swift Creek and Jones Inlet. A few nicer fish starting to mix in the catches but still lots of shorts. Spearing, sand eels and killies all accounting for fish.

MERRICK

At **Nick's Fishing Station,** Jimmy spoke of a good supply of fluke locally although many of the fish are shorts. He named Broad Creek, Merrick Point, the Loop bridge and the golf course as some of the more productive spots with the latter location seeming to hold some bigger fish. George Zipper of Bellmore continued to probe the State Channel area with live bunker. His perseverance paid off again this week in the form of a 30 lb. striper. On Saturday, Bob Ehmann, Jr. landed a 125 lb. mako fishing in 140' of water, 140° out of Jones Inlet. A couple of Brown Sharks were released on the same trip. On Wednesday, Jimmy (Boulukos) fished aboard George Santry's Lift King. They had an 85 lb. mako and released a pair of duskies. Jim knew that some blues from 2-4 lbs. were taken in the early AM on trolled umbrella rigs off of the pink hotel at Lido.

New York Bight Report

by Stu Miller

FREEPORT

The **Capt Al** reports excellent bluefishing all week and weekend long anywhere from the inlet and Swift Creek west through the Jersey Highlands. Tuesday saw 15 men into wild bluefishing just outside Jone's Inlet. Mike Aubel was hi hook with 53 blues. Wednesday Al fished the Highlands with catches averaging 12 to 15 fish a man. Friday's trip was a slaughter all day at Three Sisters. Saturday's trip worked south of Middle Grounds and they had top to bottom readings, fish ran from 3 to 18 lbs. Three to 12 lb. weakfish were mixed in. A 6 lb. weak was hauled in which was biten in half by a jumbo blue. This has all been jig fishing. Sunday saw over 300 bluefish on the boat fishing SE of Cholera. Al says there are a lot of fish in the area. Friday night was the first night trip. Hi hook was 32 blues for Frank, the bartender at the Home Port Bar on S Main Street, Freeport. The night fish averaged 3 to 6 lbs. and the pool fish went 10 lbs. even fishing between Cholera and the Three Sisters. The boat is now sailing day and night for bluefish. See ad for details.

Capt. Richie Kessinger of the **Starstream II** reports that Friday's bluefish catch averaged 30 to 40 blues

a man fishing just 1 hour from the dock. This is all jig fishing. Saturday night's trip was very productive at the Mud Hole. Sunday's trip saw 5 to 10 lb. fish jigged and chummed at the Mud Hole. Saturday night saw a solid catch of 4 to 8 lb. blues and there were anglers with 14 to 18 fish each. No big crowds as yet, so Richie says come on down now before it's elbow to elbow time.

The **Freeport Boatmen's Association** tells us that the **Super Spray II** has been enjoying very good half-day fluking all this past week and weekend fishing Reynold's Channel and Jone's Inlet area. The keeper percentage is on the upswing. Saturday night was the first night bluefish trip of the season. A 14 lb. blue coped the pool for Ron Shilstone of Locust Valley. Hi hook for the night was in the upper 20s. Ron returned Sunday afternoon and took the pool again with a 4 lb. fluke. The Association charter boats have all been fluking along the beaches, Reynold's and Deb's and Jone's Inlet with decent catches of keepers. Lots of big blues being trolled by the 6 man boats anywhere from 60' on out.

The **Capt Lou Fleet** tells of excellent fluking all week long on both the full and half-day boats. Hi hook on the **CL III** has been in the teens. Hi hook on the **CL IV** has been running 8 to 10 fish. Plenty of throwbacks, says Capt Mike with lots of action and plenty of keepers also. Ocean fluking Saturday was good. Best baits continue to be sand eels, squid, killies and shiners.

The **Blue Fin Fleet** reports a great week of fishing. Thursday saw blues caught at Cholera up to 15 lbs. on bait and chum. They finished the day Thursday fluking. Herb Abbe of Howard Beach had a 4 lb. fluke. Friday's trip saw Diane Purpura of Farmingdale load up with 15 keeper fluke working north of Reynold's Channel. Wednesday's trip for Modell's saw Charlie Coyle with a 4 lb. fluke. Dr. Harold Weiss was runnerup with a 3½ lb. fluke. On Saturday the **BF II & III** had excellent offshore fluking, with 40 keepers picked on one drift up to 5¾ lbs. The

A mess of blues and one of the season's first blue sharks taken on the Freeport charter boat "Nan-Sea."

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pool on **BF III** was Charlie Kuehne of Hanover Bank. Winning combos are spearing and fish beliy. Sunday's trip on the **BF III** was for the Levittown F.D. and they had large offshore fluke. It has not been uncommon for one offshore drift to result in 20 keepers.

Capt Mike of the charter boat **Apus II** reports having 2 makos, a blue and a brown shark, plus 2 more makos that broke off on a canyon trip early in the week. He's catching bluefish everyday. It's a slaughter, 50 to 100 a trip on umbrellas fishing west of Cholera with fish 4 to 14 lbs. On weekend shark trips the boat had brown and blue sharks and loads of 4 to 10 lb. bluefish. Mike says he has heard that tuna are starting to be caught in the Canyon.

Capt Walt Scott's **Freeport Charter Service Acme II** had Sandy O'Kuns annual family trip which produced fluke in a 50-50 keeper ratio in Swift Creek and Reynold's Channel. Another trip for Larry Kelly's Woodside Anglers saw a good fluke trip squeezed out of the south side of the Long Creek Bridge, then a move into Reynold's for a mixed pick. Another trip saw Jim Christos and group have a good fluke trip fishing Deb's through Reynold's with lots of keepers mixed in with the throwbacks.

The **Aloma II** reports excellent fluking in a 50-50 keeper ratio fish from 1½ to 4 lbs. Six to 10 keepers a man plus 15 throwbacks a man average fishing Reynold's and in the Inlet. Catches of anywhere from 2 to 10 bluefish per man on the 7 p.m. night bluefishing trips on bait and chum.

Capt Pat of the **Lady J III** called to tell us that on the maiden voyage of the new boat last week the firm of Goldman Sachs did local fluking and had a fair pick despite the poor weather that prevailed that day. Thursday's trip for NYC Firemen led by Joe King, fluked locally and did a little better than average in the rain fishing Reynold's and Long Creek. Saturday's trip for Olympic Plumbers led by Bill Marino fluked off Playland and had a decent pick of slightly larger fluke on sand eels and fish belly. Sunday's charter for Lou Garcia and the NYS Appelate Divison, Supreme Court, had very decent fluking. Saturday saw 130 keepers and Sunday 100 keepers bouncing on the deck. Lots of big sea robins and big sundials mixed in. Pool fish have generally been running in the 5 lb. area.

Charter boat **Shalidon** called to say that last Friday's trip for Wally Gordon of Yellow Freight Systems had a 175 lb. mako taken SE of Jone's in 160' of water at the Mako Hotel. Saturday's trip for Fred Volmer and his group from Squadron Anglers and guests from Milwaukee, bagged a 75 lb. mako and released another small one.

Anthony's Fishing Station tells of a good weekend with lots of keeper fluke being brought in. Two friends from the Bronx who took out one skiff returned with 15 keepers up to 3 lbs. Another skiff containing one angler had 15 keepers. This was Reynold's Channel, Swift Creek and Fundy Bay fishing using the usual baits of squid, killies, sand eels and spearing on both tides. The keeper ratio was approximately 50 percent.

Lou's Fishing Station reports a few mako were brought in this week. Saturday's best was a 171 lb. mako taken aboard Al McCarville's Falcon. This fish took 2 baits fished from the same boat at the same time. Also brought in was a 125 lb. mako and a 300 lb. plus thresher shark. All this was in 125 to 160' of water. A lot of bluefish are being taken by shark fishermen and the fluking continues very good, culling out keepers from throwbacks. Aboard Richie Koch's Libra II, 2 yellowfin tuna up to 60 lbs. and 9 longfin albacore were taken.

The **Capt Gary** called to say that Saturday's charter for Accurate Fire and Safty Equip. Co. saw hi hook of 15 fluke for Tony Hunter of Copiague. Pool winner with a 3½ lb. fluke was Brian Sinetti. Marv Teich and family and Mike Short and family also had a

good days fluking off Rockaway on the weekend. The boat will be running open the whole 4th of July weekend, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Gary says call if you need info.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Marina reports loads of blues off the Rockaways in 75' of water. These fish are up to 11 lbs. on umbrellas. Fluke seem to be in a better keeper ratio now, approaching 1 out of 3 as keepers. Best areas this week have been Jone's Inlet, Coast Guard Station, the ocean off Playland and the 60' Hole off Boces along with the Garrett's Lead area.

POINT LOOKOUT

Tom at **Scotty's Fishing Station** tells of lots of shark this weekend with a 94 lb. mako caught from an outboard by Steve Spetenga, the area Johnson sales rep on Sunday in 150' of water south of Jone's Inlet. Fred Edmunson working a diamond jig in 90' of water south of the tower bagged a 10 lb. 8 oz. weak. All rental skiffs had loads of fluke with a good number of 15 to 20 inch legal fish going up to 4 lbs. It was an average of 10 keeper fluke per boat from the Bridge to the Inlet on squid and sand eels. Small blues 10 to 12 inches on fluke rigs in front of the station in various flurries. Both tides for the fluke. Flounder still being caught where Swift Creek meets Sloop Channel. Regular old timer Tony Babaccia totals a big score every Friday in that spot on worms.

Ed's Fishing Station reports the fluking has picked up though there still is a lot of small fish with a 25 percent keeper ratio. The fluke are fatter now and fish are all along Reynold's Channel, best from the station up to buoys 16 and 18. Killies and sand eels working best. Small run of small blues at the Inlet mouth. Flounders very good size in the Swift Creek and Coast Guard Station area on worms.

Charter boat **Marie III** called to report Tuesday's trip for Jim Lee and party of Manhattan fishing SE of the NB hit blues 3 to 6 lbs. with a few 10 pounders on umbrellas and wire with colors white, black and purple working best. Two to 4 fish at a time was common. Thursday and Friday saw fluke trips in the bay, 15 percent keepers Thursday and 25 percent keepers Friday. Friday's hi hook was Dennis Smith with a combination 41 keepers and shorties. Pool honors went to Chuck Bartoiomeo with a fish in the 3 lb. class and 39 mixed keepers and shorties. The average catch was 25 K&S a man. Saturday's trip east of the HA for shark in 120' of water saw 50 lb. class mako caught plus a brown shark and numerous bluefish. This was the 2nd mako in 2 shark trips. Sunday's charter between the bridge and Golf Course in Reynold's Channel saw very good catch in the morning, then larger fish off Playland in the p.m. for the Double T Fishing Club. The pool went to Kurt Young with a 6 lb. fluke. Spearing seemed best this week.

Mike Nigro and Andrew Ficanella with some late spring flounder up to 3 lbs. taken near the Meadowbrook Bridge aboard the Pt. Lookout charter boat "Marie III."

ISLAND PARK

Capt Clem of the **Commodore** reports the fluking is still good. Saturday he fished a great trip off Playland and found it fair there on Sunday. An average keeper catch of a dozen fluke is the score on ocean fish. Friday off Reis Park was good as was Deb's in the afternoon. All trips are averaging 12 keepers a man and there are still alot of small fish in the bay. Hi hooks are generally running 25 keepers. Clem says it's been a super month for fluke. Fish belly and spearing combos seem to be working best and Clem advises conventional tackle rather than spinning be employed for ocean fluking since sinkers up to 6 oz. are often necessary.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina tells us that fluking continues to be solid. Hottest areas have been from the Atlantic Beach Bridge to the Coast Guard Station and from the Long Beach Hospital and buoy 9, plus off Playland. Sammy Salem had an 8 lb. fluke at buoy 9 and heads the marina's fluke contest for the month. Killies have been working best for larger fluke. Skuli Mathison and George Tanner bagged a 145 lb. mako 3 duskies and 7 big bluefish fishiung 170 degrees south of Jone's in 120' of water Sunday. Bernie Haig finally did it. He got his 50 lb. 10 oz. striped bass fishing a live bunker under the Atlantic Beach Bridge Friday morning. Way to go, Bernie.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Al at **Reynold's Reef Fishing Station** tells us that the Atlantic Beach Rod & Gun Club held their fluke tournament over this weekend with Bob Foley winning 1st place with a 3 lb. 8 oz. fluke. Tony Siniscalchi took

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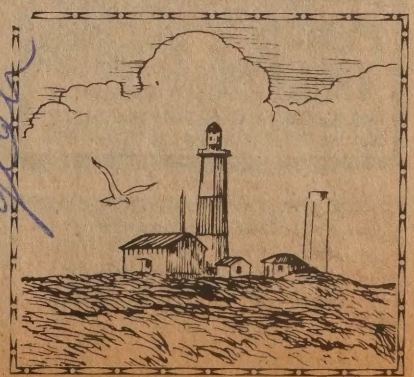

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2nd place with a 2 lb. 13 oz. fluke. Sandy Atler took 3rd place with a 2 lb. 10 oz. fluke. Milt Miller now leads the bluefish category of the club with a 13 lb. 8 oz. fluke. Generally fluking has been very good between the Atlantic Beach Bridge and the Atlantic Beach Coast Guard Station. A hot spot has been from 50th St. Rockaway through Reis Park on the ocean side on killies, sand eels, squid and spearing on all tides. A few blacks still hitting clam and fiddlers at the Atlantic Beach Bridge.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait & Tackle tells of a 6 lb. fluke caught at the Sea Wall by Mario Giordano on sand eel and fluke belly on the top of the flood Sunday. Saturday's notable fish was an 11 lb. and a 9 lb. weakfish caught by Joe Roman off the South Channel Bridge on dead low tide on a bunker chunk. Snappers and porgies are both being caught off of both bridges.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Mike's Tackle reports that it's a slaughter on blues for the boats going over to Princess Bay, Staten Island during the days. These are 4 to 5 lb. fish being caught on jigs. Chumming boats are doing a job also, but running south on the Jersey Coast past Sea Bright. At night they are working 17 fathom and Monster Ledge for 8 to 12 lb. fish. Bluefishing has been consistent since Wednesday. Fluke remain good with 12 keepers taken by Charlie of the shop off the Jersey Coast. The Narrows are also producing as is the jetty behind Korvettes. Very decent size weakfish at the can, Norton's Point and at the channels on diamond jigs and bait tails.

Capt Tom of the **Pilot II** is still happy about the sea bass and blackfish catches that are split pretty much evenly on all his trips. Sea bass are still in the 1 to 1½ lb. range and blackfish in the 1 to 7 lb. range. Tom says this is the best blackfish and sea bass spring in years. On the boat's night trips, loads of weaks and blues are being caught. Saturday night, jig fishing in the Sandy Hook area, they had over 200 5 to 9 lb. weaks and

Rich Levine, Mike Levine, and Dave Solomon with jumbo blues trolled in 30' of water off Long Beach aboard the "Kim."

nearly 1000 2 to 4 lb. blues. See ad for sailing schedule.

Capt Walt on the **Flamingo III** tells of a super bluefish Sunday, all on jigs, bailing fish as fast as you could catch them. Customers had 4 to 5 hours of the finest kind of bluefishing. Saturday was tough in the morning but very good in the afternoon, fishing "in the back" meaning Staten Island, Highlands and way in the back of Sandy Hook at Key Port and Leonardo. These are 2 to 5 lb. fish and catches of 25 to 30 a man in common.

Capt Kevin of the **Dorothy B** reports good fluking during the week off the Jersey Coast but Sunday was a little slower due to heavy boat traffic and weed condition. Saturday night's fluking was excellent on the 5 p.m. trip with 70 percent of the fish being keepers along the Rockaways.

Guy DeBlasio called to tell us that brother Billy and Ron Onorato on Ron's 22' Boston Whaler Revenge, caught 2 makos of 100 plus and 250 lbs. plus 3 smaller shark. This was 12 miles east of the HA out of Jone's on Wednesday. Some 10 to 14 lb. blues were also taken. In 75' of water they came across acres and acres of big weaks on the surface. Weaks were also on the Jersey side of the Tin Can. They are hitting jigs and S&G tiger tails. School bass are in the Hudson River along with flounders up to 1½ lbs. off Battery Park. Whether they are edible or not, we don't know.

Charter boat **Thermocline** called to report that he's been fishing the Tin Can Grounds all week, catching bluefish up to 12 lbs. and weakfish up to 14 lbs. The weekend saw lots of shark action near the HA buoy area.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop** says that boat fishermen are catching weaks and blues from buoy 4 to 14 on Princess Bay Channel on cut or whole bunker. Weaks are averaging 8 to 10 lbs., blues 2 to 4 lbs. with some 8 to 10 pounders mixed in. Very good fluking from Great Kills Bug Light to buoy 4 with a lot of keepers and a lot of midgets. Better sizes at the Old Orchard Lighthouse. This is on sand eels, spearing and killies.

John Aviles, Shorty Ruiz, Mike Mercado, and Jim Lopez with 50 porgies, 5 weaks, and 3 blues taken in Peconic Bay on squid and worms. Photo courtesy of Speck's Bait and Tackle.

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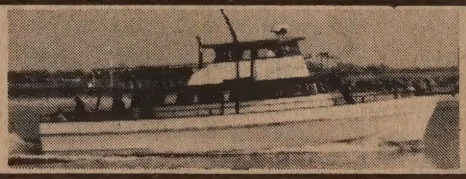

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DOROTHY B

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BLUES • WEAKS • FLUKE

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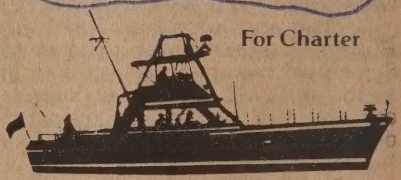

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North Shore Report

by Martin Garrell

NEW ROCHELLE

John Palmieri at **John's Gun & Tackle** told us that blues are now in the harbors at Mararoneck and New Rochelle working on the bunker schools. These are large fish in the 10-15 lb. class. Trolling umbrellas in the deep water off Captain's Island is also effective for the slammers. There are sand porgies with a few blackfish around Bayville and Center Island. Bass are still being trolled at night with sandworms—no spinner for the large fish.

CITY ISLAND

John Decuffa at **Jack's Bait & Tackle** said that a 40 lb. bass taken off Orchard Beach on a bunker strip was weighed in at the Station over the weekend. Small flounder and some blackfish still can be found in the bags of bottom fishermen, but the big news is sand porgies, mostly taken on worms. A few blues in the 5-7 lb. range were picked up late in the week off the City Island Bridge.

Captain Joe Ferrara said that the **Ebb Tide** has been travelling as far as Smithtown, working on porgies from ½ lb. up to 1¼ lbs. Some flounder and blackfish mixed on. Depending on tide, and depending on which way the boat lies in the current, catches of scup range anywhere from 8 to 40 fish per person. Ferrara wants to start this week on the bluefish with a diamond jigging operation, so the weekend sailings will be moved up to 7AM.

Joe Fink of the **Lady Lil II** saw a large number of flounder on Sunday mixed with the porgy catches. Total catch runs anywhere from 15-50 fish per person. Most of the flounder action is around Lloyd's Neck. The boat is seeing about a half dozen short fluke each week. On Thursday and Friday evenings, Fink will begin 5 PM trips on blues and weaks, with diamonds until dark and worms afterwards.

HUNTINGTON

George Valentine of **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** reported the Eaton's Neck area is currently enjoying a super run of bass, weaks and blues. While most of the bass are averaging 8-12 lbs., there have been a good number of big fish taken as well. Tri-Fin tiger striped jigs in the Obstruction buoy area or trolling umbrellas at buoy 13 have been producing some of the best scores. Among the better fish weighed in in recent days were a 28½ lb. striper for Bill Olsen, a 28.4 lb. striper for Jim Benedict, a 34 lber. for Charlie Taylor and a 30 lber. for Jenny Laddin. Bob Schneider had an 11 lb. 14 oz. weakfish. Of the bottom fishing, George spoke of plenty of porgies with small fish on the inside from Sand City to Duck Island and larger fish from 1-2 lbs. on the outside at Lloyd Point, Eaton's Neck and Crabmeadow Beach.

Packy Collins of the **Ever Ready** called to tell us that the night runs, in a sense, have been dynamite. The quantity if lower than he likes, but the quality is there. On Friday night, the boat took two dozen blues to 9 lbs., plus a half dozen bass that included Bob Verga's 28 lb. pool winner. On Saturday night, Susan Verga had a 10½ lb. bass, and the pool went to Scott Parker's 13⅓ lb. weakfish. Parker came all the way from Lakeland, Florida for his "gray trout." There were 15-16 weaks, 4 bass and a smattering of blues in the Saturday catch. Bucktails work early, then the boat shifts to sandworms. Porgy action in Eaton's Neck has been a problem in the fast currents, but there are nice fish to 1½ lbs. there along with flounder that push 2 lbs. Collins will soon be switching to a †AM run for blues and weaks, and his night runs, starting at 6PM will be extended to Wednesday and Thursdays as well.

Finn Jakobs at **Huntington Prop and Tackle** said that action picked up considerably last week. There were at least three different groups of bluefish available: 2½ lb. stuff, 4-6 lb. fish, and slammers to 13 lbs. Umbrellas and diamonds were doing a job. John Freda, trolling black tubes on umbrellas, had a 20 lb. bass off Eatons along with a number of 8-10 blues while Jay Verme pulled 12 good blues to 12 lbs. on umbrellas off Diamond Point. Porgy fishing is excellent but blackfishing seems to be about done.

NORTHPORT

Tom Bowman at **Bowman's** said the week had been dead until Saturday. "Then, all hell broke loose!" The small blues (2-4) off the Lilco Station obliged on Rebels and Redfins until 7:30 a.m. while diamond jiggers did a job on the weaks and blues off buoy 11B and the Obstruction Buoy. Blues were less than 10 lbs. and the best weak weighed in at the shop went 10½ lbs. It pays to put a strawberry or grape wrom on the tail hook of the jig if you want the weaks. Further out, catches of up to 5 blues or less on umbrellas are not uncommon, but these are slammers up to 15 lbs. Taking a flat of worms and anchoring up with a chum pot, many anglers are pulling porgies. The bigger fish are some two miles off the beach in 50' of water, and there are blues close by. Bowman saw his first snapper of the season, taken on Saturday in Centerport off the Mill Dam Bridge.

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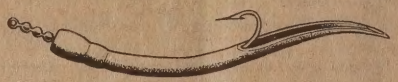

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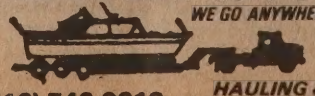

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KINGS PARK

Hlen Koliner at **O.K. Bait & Tackle** told us there were a lot of smiling faces over the weekend thaNKs to buckets of porgies. Fluke are mixed with the porgy catches off Callahan's, and there are blues around Lilco to add to the fun.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Dick Brown at **Dick's Sporting Goods** said that the weakfishing action had slowed and that the fish were deep and off the beach now.

Ralph Davenport at **Ralph's** told us that the blues were taking up the slack with a lot of small choppers inside buoy 9. Fish to 8 lbs. can be found further out. One boat off Ralph's showed up with 18 keeper fluke, and Brown says there seem to be plenty of 30s and 40s among the bass brought in by trollers. Many of the bass are picked up by bluefishermen with umbrellas. Porgy fishing is described as "excellent."

PORT JEFFERSON

John Caraftis at **Caraftis Fishing Station** liked the action on Saturday and Sunday off the Inlet West of Buoy 11 on blues in the 3-6 lb. class. Fish were also thick off buoy 9. Diamond jigging was the way to go, for weaks in the 4-6 lb. group as well as for the blues. Six ounce jigs are the norm in the tides around Buoy 11, but 3-4 oz. does okay in most other spots. Porgies seemed stirred up and hot action can be found anywhere, including Cranes, Mt. Misery, Oldfield and Rocky Point. The fluke off White Beach in Miller Place include fish in the 3 lb. class.

John Fisher of the **Aqua Gem** mentioned that porgies were now some 85% of the catch but that he'll be taking some shots at the blues with diamonds this week. Many of the blues seem to be in 25' of water, but Fisher is waiting until he can hit them in 60', probably after July 4.

South Fork Report

by Stu Miller

AQUEBOGUE

Ed Kopack at **Warren's Tackle Center** said that the ratio of keeper to throwback fluke off Mattituck Inlet was about 1:4 but that there was a large body of fish there. Sand eel-suid combos were best bait. Weakfishing had dropped off in the area, and the schoolie bass dropped out as well. Best catch of weaks from the bay was a haul of 8 fish to 6 lbs. taken on Sunday morning along with a bag of porgies.

MATTITUCK

The **Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station** reported mostly medium porgies with some good fluke. Small blues moving west of the inlet seem to have scattered the porgies to the east. Sunday's best porgy fishing was off the Motel.

NEW SUFFOLK

Sal Loria at **captain Marty's** and Newt Robbins at **Captain Jim's** were talking of plenty of porgies over the weekend. Catches in the hundreds with a few 2-2½ lb. fish mixed in. Action seems to be almost everywhere in Little Peconic, with buoy 18, the Radio Tower, buoys 22, 23, and 25 all mentioned in reports. Some boats have done well down at buoy 30, too. Weaks have dropped off, but there are a few 2-3 lb. bluefish around.

SOUTHOLD

Ace Cottral at the **Port of Egypt** gave us the complete run down on the bay from buoy 17 east. Diamonds of 4 oz. can be used to jig blues to 4 lbs. off Jessups, while big weaks and blues can still be found in the deep channel in front of the Station on high water and the first of the outgoing. Porgies in Southold by Bay from Buoys 16 to the Middle grounds are small and medium, while the better fish are around Sag Harbor. East Marion is still holding a lot of short fluke.

On the Sound, off the Orient Station, Cottral described the porgies as medium and said that a few flounder to 2 lbs. were still holding on the rocks between the Lighthouse and the Point. Nobody is talking about fluke in the Petty's-Truman's area yet. Gardiner's still doesn't have its porgies, but there are plenty of small fluke off the Ruins, with weaks and blues showing to the north and heading for Constellation Rock.

GREENPORT

Captain Dave Brennan of the

Fred Sigkowski and Joe Dimino caught 30 weaks and 20 blues in the South Race on Bingle lures and jelly worms. They left from Capt. Marty's Fishing Station.

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Bob Aurisy (pictured) and John Polmieri of John's Gun & Tackle worm trolled 20 bass from 3-25 lbs. in western L. I. Sound. Most of the fish were released by the two anglers.

Peconic Star reported both he and George Porter of the **Brand X** have been capitalizing on a good run of porgies near Gardiner's Island. The Brand X had a fair shot of weakfish in addition to the porgies on Saturday. Aboard the **Peconic Star** on Sunday, Harold Jones had 47 porgies and 1 blackfish. Twelve year old Barry Block of the Anglers Den Fishing Club totalled 30 porgies and had a 7 lb. pool winning blackfish as well. A few sea bass, fluke and blackfish mixed with the porgies each day according to Captain Dave.

Mrs. John Rainis called to say that the **Blue Albatross** has been featuring a mixed bag of late, with sea bass, porgies and blackfish to 5 lbs. in Saturday's catch and Sunday's bag holding blues and small weaks. The boat is running as an open boat during the week.

Art White at the **A.P. White Bait Shop** thought that the best jigging for weakfish was probably off Gardiner's Green Hills. White saw a number of nice fluke last weekend taken from the zone between buoy 8 and the Bug Light Channel. Horton's seems to be making a showing on fluke and weaks, and there are some blackfish around as well, although not as many as on the fall run. For late June, White feels that the fishing has been "quite good."

North Fork Report

by Martin Garrell

SHINNECOCK

Speck's Bait & Tackle reports that off the Shinnecock jetties and the Shinnecock Bay small blues along with small to medium fluke and flounders are being caught. The canal has been very quiet this past week except for the noise of sea robins. In the Peconics porgies are biting best from buoys 18 to 15 in the half pound variety. The blues are going up to 4 lbs. Larger porgies are being caught at Sag Harbor's buoy 11. Clam and worms as hook bait are the ticket. Gardiner's Island has been having fair to good catches of fluke off Eastern Plains Point on sand eels and squid. Also small bluefish are being taken in the same area on fluke rigs and also on chunk bait. Weaks have been picky with the first hour of the incoming tide best in Noyac Bay. Try squid or worm bait on the last of the flocd.

Scott Baird of Centerport, weighed a 37½ lb. striper in at Bowman's Sporting Goods. It was caught at Lloyd's Neck.

The **Capt Clark II** reports good porgy fishing in Peconic Bay. Thursday saw Bill Hines and son of Brooklyn deck 54 porgies along with several kingfish. Capt Clark made an ocean wreck run Sunday which was very successful with sea bass and ling being caught throughout the day. The boat was fishing only two wrecks and caught sea bass on both. The skipper plans another trip this week. Call for info and see ad for details.

NOYAC

Noyac Marina reports that Carl Tolsdorf and party scored with a solid catch of medium sized porgies Sunday fishing near the ferry slip on sand worms and squid.

SAG HARBOR

Capt Arti Lach of the **Wilhelric II** started weekday fluking slowly for the Tuesday and Wednesday trips but even so, a few 5 pounders were put in the box in short order on Wednesday's trip. This is an indication of much better fluking to come with better tides. The porgy action all the rest of the week and weekend has been super. Mike Fuchs and wife of Whitestone, scored with 137 porgies of mixed sizes Sunday on sand worms and clam. All fares caught as many fish as they could cope with and Artie says it was an absolutely slaughter Sunday with the boat blowing the lines up whistle at noon. Saturday was a slaughter also, fishing Crowl Shoals. Saturday they also had a dozen weakfish and some blues mixed in on diamond jigs.

Chris at **Bayview Fishing Station** reports excellent porgy fishing on the south side of Mashamok Point and Cedar Point, fish averaging 1 lb. on worm and clam, both tides. Some fluke are also being caught, most of them running 3 to 5 lbs. Two to 4 lb. blues are also being caught at Mashamok Point on either diamond jigs or wire line and umbrellas.

Surf Report

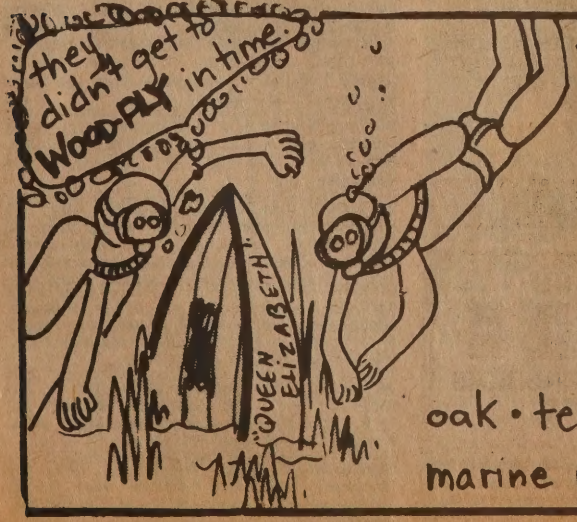
by Fred Golofaro

Novice surfcaster, George Mandaraska of Astoria, taken under the wing by a fellow Striper Surf Club member who has taken more than his share of Cape stripers over the years proved himself an attentive student on a recent trip to the Cape's sandy beaches. Mike Kalen who reported the young angler's success said that George not only landed his first striper ever, but had 2 other fish as well. The three fish ranged from 22 to 25 lbs.

Locally, Mike told me of a few weaks taken by club members under the Light at Montauk during the week. As of Friday PM, however, it appears a good run of weaks had developed along Gin Beach and at Shagwong. Fish were taken in good numbers on Friday, Saturady and Sunday nights. More on Montauk later on in the report.

Back at the other end of the island, Lenny at Santo's Sport Shop in Staten Island said that casters pick away at blues ranging anywhere from 3 on up to 17 lbs. in the Cliff Street area. Fish are being taken on outgoing water with Danny swimmers. At the entrance to Great Kills Harbor, a few blues and weaks being taken fromk the bar on bait or bucktails.

Bernie Haag of Long Beach Sports Marina knew that casters had again begun taking some big stripers from the Atlantic Beach rock piles at night and during the early morning hours. Cut bunker is accounting for those fish being taken. Some school bass in the area also. One caster stopped by



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32' CHRIS CRAFT 1960 Sea Skiff. Sleeps six; 2/185 FWC engs. Stand up head; elec. winch. Good condition. Must sell. 516-842-2723.

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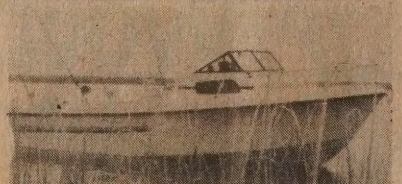

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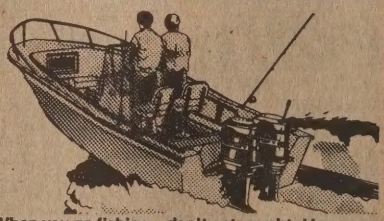

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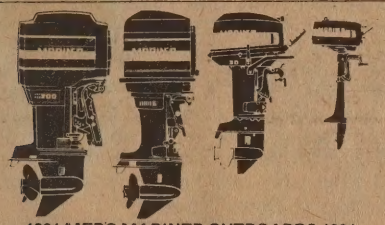

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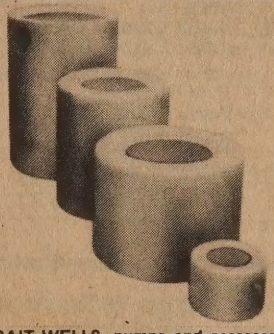

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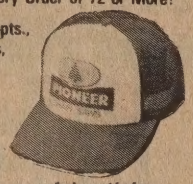

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Kenny Hejducek took these bass of 41 and 25 lbs. from the Atlantic Beach surf on bunker chunks. Fish were checked in at Skippy's Bait & Tackle in East Rockaway.

the marina to show Bernie 4 schoolies taken early Saturday AM.

From Wanser's Bait and Tackle in Seaford, Lon knew that casters have been picking away at blues up to 6 lbs. and weakfish from 4-7 lbs. in the Cedar to Gilgo area. Both bait and tins have been accounting for a few fish.

At the Captree Bait Station, the only surf news that Noel could relay was of a 29 lb. striper weighed at the shop by Chris Schwab late last week. No mention was made of where the fish was taken. A similar report was filed by George Combs of Combs Bait and Tackle. George checked in fish of 40 and 20 lbs. for a caster by the name of Stan who said he took the fish on Rebels at Cedar Beach.

Over at Democrat Point, anglers have been picking away on weakfish and an occasional bass on sand worms. Some small blues on tins and a few weaks on RedFins, Rebels and Tri-Fin Whiptails on the back side last week.

Finally a little life in the inlet area according to Thom at Speck's Bait and Tackle. The east side of the Shinnecock Inlet jetty produced a few bass this past week on eels and bucktails.

Getting back to that Montauk report, Johnny Kronuch of Johnny's Bait and Tackle relayed word of the run of fish which has developed on the north side of the point. He credited Steve Petri and his son with finding the fish Friday night. Steve was well rewarded for his diligence because in addition to a nice mess of weaks, he also took a bass of 29 lbs. On Saturday night, Brenda Convoy culled a 30 lb. bass from among the weakfish. Most of the weaks averaged 5-6 lbs. although there are some real tiderunners mixed in. Rich Hasenzahl had 10 of the yellowfins including 3 in the 10-11 lb. class. Redfins are taking the fish, but with a showing of fire in the water as the moonlight fades, droppers fished ahead of the plugs should also produce. John noted that there's lots of bait in the area and is hopeful that the run of fish will continue for awhile.

Up on the north shore, George Valentine of Four Winds Bait and Tackle reported that after a quiet week along area beaches fish began showing up again. Around mid-week Art Mundula swam an Alou Eeel from the Ashroken shore and clicked with a 37 lb. striper. Small blues provided sporadic action along Crabmeadow and Makamah beaches towards the end of last week. They were taking tin. Also a few weaks and school bass put in an appearance at Lloyd's Point where Tri-Fin eel worms, Rebels and small tins produced.

With the exception of a few blues just before dark local beaches have been dead according to Stan at Rocky Point Fishing Stop. Tin has been taking a few choppers, mostly 2 lbers. but an occasional 8 lber. from Hagerman's Landing to Miller Place. No bass or weakfish action to speak off along this stretch of shore.

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet...–0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR.	9:00	9:15	9:45	10:05	9:40	9:55	10:30	10:45	12:05	12:50	–	12:25	8:50	9:10	7/2
FRI.	9:50	10:05	10:35	10:55	10:35	10:50	11:20	11:40	1:00	1:40	12:40	1:15	9:40	10:00	7/3
SAT.	10:45	10:55	11:25	11:45	11:30	11:45	–	12:15	1:55	2:35	1:35	2:05	10:30	10:50	7/4
SUN.	11:35	11:45	–	12:20	–	12:25	12:30	1:05	2:45	3:30	2:25	3:00	11:20	11:40	7/5
MON.	–	12:25	12:40	1:15	12:35	1:15	1:20	2:05	3:45	4:25	3:15	3:50	–	12:15	7/6
TUE.	12:35	1:15	1:30	2:10	1:25	2:05	2:15	3:00	4:45	5:20	4:10	4:40	12:30	1:05	7/7
WED.	1:25	2:05	2:25	3:05	2:10	2:50	3:15	3:55	5:45	6:20	5:00	5:35	1:25	1:55	7/8
THUR.	2:10	2:50	3:20	4:00	3:00	3:40	4:10	4:50	6:45	7:15	5:55	6:25	2:15	2:50	7/9

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink, R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking zbridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehoboth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Pontunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	–0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	–0 08
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	–0 03
Saugatuck River	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	–0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rocheele	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	–0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayett Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Harbor	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

7/3	5:28	8:40
7/4	5:29	8:40
7/5	5:30	8:39
7/6	5:30	8:39
7/7	5:31	8:38
7/8	5:32	8:38
7/9	5:32	8:37

Moonrise/Moonset

7/3	7:25AM	10:12PM
7/4	8:31AM	10:53PM
7/5	9:37AM	11:27PM
7/6	10:40AM	11:58PM
7/7	11:42AM	—
7/8	12:41PM	12:26AM
7/9	1:39PM	12:53AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
7/1	7/9	7/17	7/24

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for this week as printed below have been taken from the original ***KNIGHT SOLUNAR TABLES.*** Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type face.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	6:00	—	6:25	12:15
Fri.	7:00	12:45	7:40	1:25
Sat.	8:05	1:55	8:35	2:20
Sun.	9:00	2:50	9:30	3:15
Mon.	9:55	3:45	10:25	4:10
Tues.	10:45	4:35	11:10	4:55
Wed.	11:30	5:20	11:55	5:40
Thurs.	—	6:10	12:20	6:30

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